

*non-american cattle producers*

# *The* PRODUCER

Vol. XIV

DENVER, COLORADO

No. 1



**JUNE 1932** -36

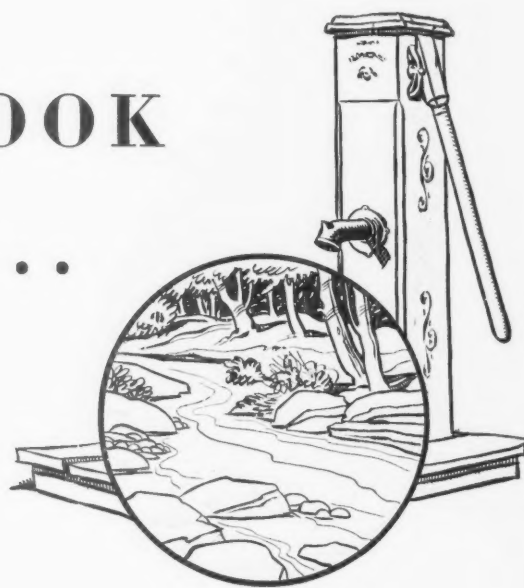
*Official Organ of the*  
AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK  
ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

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## SAID THE BROOK TO THE PUMP...



*"When your customers don't want water, you don't pump any. But I have to go on all the time. The springs and the rains keep sending water to me and I can neither refuse it nor store it. So I have to keep it moving, whether my customers want it or not."*

A FABLE, of course. Yet it illustrates the difference between most manufacturing industries and the meat packing industry.

When the demand for steel diminishes, the mills reduce their output. The raw material remains in the ground or "in stock" and the supply doesn't dwindle or deteriorate. It is immediately available when wanted.

But the meat industry, like the brook, has to keep going. Cattle and hogs and sheep keep right on eating and maturing regardless of the demand for meat. Supplies cannot be stored up, either in live form or as dressed meat, and consequently they must be sold for consumption at approximately the same rate they come to market. And this

can be done only through the medium of elastic prices and efficient distribution.

Prices must always be kept low enough to permit of complete consumption, while distribution must be sufficiently widespread to reach the markets where the best prices are obtainable.

Armour and Company's service to livestock raisers lies in the Company's ability to put meat into numerous appetizing forms of highest quality which stimulate demand, and to ship efficiently to markets—wherever they may be—which are best able to purchase.

Armour's service has helped to keep the channels for livestock constantly open and to resist the downward push of depression better than most speculative commodities.

*T. H. Lee*  
President

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# THE PRODUCER

## THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK MONTHLY

Volume XIV

DENVER, COLORADO, JUNE, 1932

Number 1

### Wintering Rations for Stock Calves

THREE MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY OF the College of Agriculture of the University of Nebraska (R. R. Thalman, H. J. Gramlich, and E. B. Lewis) during the past winter conducted experiments in feeding steer calves with the object of determining the most economical method of utilizing the corn plant in the wintering ration. The calves were high-grade Herefords from the herd of N. E. Trego, of Sutherland, Nebraska. At the beginning of the test they averaged 365 pounds, and the cost was \$7.50 per hundredweight. The trial, which was the third in a series, lasted from November 12, 1931, to April 10, 1932—a period of 150 days. Following is a summary of the report:

#### Daily Rations

The calves were divided into eight lots of 13 or 14 head each, and fed these daily rations:

- Lot 1—Shelled corn (10.67 lbs.) and alfalfa hay (3.05 lbs.), both full-fed.
- Lot 2—Shelled corn (2.98 lbs.) and alfalfa hay (10.47 lbs., full-fed).
- Lot 3—Corn silage (29.89 lbs., full-fed) and alfalfa hay (2.02 lbs.).
- Lot 4—Corn silage (30.98 lbs., full-fed) and cottonseed cake (1 lb.).
- Lot 5—Ground corn fodder (15.63 lbs., full-fed) and alfalfa hay (1.94 lbs.).
- Lot 6—Ground corn fodder (16.17 lbs., full-fed) and cottonseed cake (1 lb.).
- Lot 7—Corn silage (31.76 lbs., full-fed), cottonseed cake (1 lb.), and ground limestone (0.1 lb.).
- Lot 8—Cane silage (37.23 lbs., full-fed) and cottonseed cake (1 lb.).

Cottonseed cake and alfalfa were introduced for purposes of comparison as protein supplements to corn silage and corn fodder. In addition, cane silage was used in Lot 8 in order to study its suitability as a silage crop in Nebraska. The value of ground limestone was tested as a mineral supplement.

While gross returns, say the authors, are determined in large measure by gain per acre, the net result depends upon the cost of feed preparation. Hence data were obtained on comparative costs of handling the corn plant as fed in different forms, and were taken into account in fixing fodder and silage prices. On this basis, feed prices were found to be: shelled corn, 28 cents a bushel; corn silage, \$4 a ton; corn fodder (including ears), \$8; cane silage, \$4; cottonseed cake (pea size, 43 per cent protein), \$23; alfalfa hay (No. 2 leafy, second cutting, reasonably fine), \$10; ground limestone, \$20. The price placed on corn silage and corn fodder represents the cost of handling, plus 28 cents for each bushel of corn contained in a ton. It was based upon the feed when ready to be fed, and includes shrinkage in processing.

The silage and fodder corn was grown under similar conditions. Fields were divided into four lands, and alternate strips were used for silage and for fodder. Four rows were left in the center of each land for shucking, the acreage was determined, and the yield in bushels of shelled corn was based on shucking tests. A 14 per cent moisture basis was used. Silage and fodder were cut at the same time. The silage corn was weighed into the silo, and moisture samples were taken at fourteen-day intervals. Similarly, the silage was weighed out as fed, and the shrinkage determined.

#### YIELD AND MOISTURE DETERMINATIONS

Feeds	Net Yield per Acre	Moisture (per Cent)
Shelled corn .....	31.25 bu.	14.14
Corn silage .....	5.87 tons	69.28
Corn fodder .....	2.70 tons	31.74
Cane silage (Black Amber) .....	5.89 tons	70.56
Alfalfa .....	2.50 tons	11.86

The fodder was ground just fine enough to crack the kernels. Average cost of grinding was \$1.97 per ton. It should be emphasized that the sharpness of knives is an important factor in reducing fodder-grinding costs.

While the price of corn may change, the relation between fodder and silage prices will not be affected, if moisture content is considered. There were 5.21 bushels of shelled corn, containing about 14 per cent moisture, in each ton of corn silage, and 11.57 bushels in each ton of corn fodder.

Harvesting, processing, and all other costs of silage were \$2.54 per ton, and of fodder, \$4.76; value of corn, at 28 cents a bushel, was \$1.46 per ton as silage and \$3.24 as fodder; giving \$4 as total cost per ton of silage ready to feed, and \$8 of fodder. Shrink (spoilage, chemical losses, and loss in handling) was 8.97 per cent for silage and 2.08 per cent for fodder.

#### Gains Obtained

In the below table, initial weight, final weight, average gain for the test period, and average daily gain for the eight lots are shown (in pounds):

	Initial Weight	Final Weight	Average Gain	Av. Daily Gain
Lot 1 .....	369	681	312	2.08
Lot 2 .....	373	591	218	1.45
Lot 3 .....	363	591	228	1.52
Lot 4 .....	367	633	266	1.77
Lot 5 .....	368	606	238	1.58
Lot 6 .....	364	623	259	1.73
Lot 7 .....	362	644	282	1.88
Lot 8 .....	357	570	213	1.42

#### Feed Requirements

Feed required and feed cost per 100 pounds of gain are given thus (pounds):

##### FEED REQUIRED AND COST PER 100 POUNDS' GAIN

Lot 1—Shelled corn.....	513
Alfalfa hay .....	147
Cost .....	\$3.30
Lot 2—Shelled corn.....	205
Alfalfa hay .....	722
Cost .....	\$4.64
Lot 3—Corn silage .....	1,968
Alfalfa hay .....	133
Cost .....	\$4.61
Lot 4—Corn silage .....	1,746
Cottonseed cake .....	56
Cost .....	\$4.14
Lot 5—Ground corn fodder.....	987
Alfalfa hay .....	123
Cost .....	\$4.56
Lot 6—Ground corn fodder .....	935
Cottonseed cake .....	58
Cost .....	\$4.41
Lot 7—Corn silage.....	1,692
Cottonseed cake.....	53
Ground limestone .....	5
Cost .....	\$4.04
Lot 8—Cane silage .....	2,616
Cottonseed cake .....	70
Cost .....	\$6.04



SCENE ON RANCH OF A. R. MODISSETT, RUSHVILLE, NEBRASKA

With hogs following, it is estimated that 13.71 pounds of pork would be produced per head of cattle. Figuring the price for hogs as \$3.75 per hundredweight, and allowing 10 cents as the cost of extra feed for the cattle, the profit from this source would amount to 41 cents a head.

#### Full-Fed Calves Show Most Gain

As was to be expected, the full-fed calves (Lot 1) were those gaining the most. Lot 4 (silage and cake) came next, and Lot 6 (fodder and cake) ranked third. Averaging the three trials, Lot 6 produced 89.24 per cent as much gain as Lot 4. It should be stated, however, that the visual difference in condition and bloom of the hair was much in favor of the silage-fed calves. Without exception, Lot 4 was appraised at a higher price at the end of the winter than Lot 6.

If we consider only the first six lots, Lot 5 (corn fodder and alfalfa) and Lot 3 (silage and alfalfa) ranked fourth, or next to Lot 6, in rate of gain. It appears, therefore, that silage and ground corn fodder of comparable quality differ little in ability to produce gains, when supplemented with 2 to 3 pounds of alfalfa hay.

With one exception, calves fed alfalfa, supplemented with 3 pounds daily of shelled corn (Lot 2), have ranked last in rate of gain. At the end of the trial, there was a certain lack of uniformity in size and condition, which lowered their value as feeders.

The difference in gains produced by silage and corn fodder when supplemented with cottonseed cake or alfalfa was noticeably in favor of the cottonseed cake in each of the three trials. Averaging the results, alfalfa produced 82.89 per cent as much gain as cake when fed with silage. Fed with fodder, alfalfa produced 91.73 per cent as much gain.

Since this was the first time that calcium carbonate had been tested as a mineral supplement to silage and cottonseed cake, Lot 7 has been kept out of the comparisons. It appears that the addition of finely ground limestone to the ration had a beneficial effect on the calves, but to what extent it was responsible for increased gain can be determined only through further experimentation. It is important that a good grade of limestone be used, testing from 95 to 98 per cent calcium carbonate.

From the standpoint of gain, the calves in Lot 8 were 5 pounds per head under those in Lot 2. Comparing cane silage with corn silage (Lots 4 and 8), the difference in gain was 53 pounds; cane silage thus producing only 80 per cent as much gain as corn silage. In view of the fact, however, that the cane had not fully matured at the time it was cut, it was not directly comparable with the corn silage.

#### Gains per Acre

In a wintering trial, the amount of gain that can be produced from one acre of crop should form the major basis of the comparison. As noted above, the silage lots were somewhat above the fodder lots in gain per acre of corn. Even though the gain per calf was practically the same in Lots 3 and 5, Lot 3 showed an advantage when gains were compared on a per-acre basis. While Lot 6 gained 7.85 per cent more per head, Lot 3 produced more pounds of gain per acre of corn. This emphasizes the importance of acre comparisons for the man who is interested in getting maximum returns from his farm.

#### Steer Day Rations per Acre

The carrying capacity of an acre of corn was increased materially through the utilization of the roughage produced by the corn plant. While these data are dependent almost entirely upon the crop yield, and will vary from year to year, the relative carrying capacity of the crop fed in different forms will not be affected. When the corn crop was fed in the form of shelled corn, there was an average of



134 steer day rations on 1 acre, representing less than 50 per cent of the steer day rations produced by either silage or fodder when supplemented with alfalfa or cottonseed cake.

Average gains produced per acre of corn or cane (first column of figures), and steer day rations per acre (second column), were as below:

	Gain per Acre (lbs.)	Steer Day Rations
Lot 1—Shelled corn .....	334	164
Lot 2—(Not comparable)		
Lot 3—Corn silage and alfalfa.....	596	393
Lot 4—Corn silage and cake.....	672	379
Lot 5—Ground corn fodder and alfalfa.....	547	345
Lot 6—Ground corn fodder and cake.....	576	333
Lot 7—Corn silage, cake, and ground limestone	694	370
Lot 8—Cane silage and cake.....	449	316

#### Financial Outcome

The calves used in this experiment were not sold at the end of the wintering period, but were held for further feeding—some in dry-lot and some on grass. Values given, therefore, represent only estimates and have little significance. Results may be entirely changed by the daily market demand. Furthermore, initial cost into the feed-lot of similar calves may not be the same on any two farms. The selling price necessary to break even is, however, a tangible quantity, according to which the efficiency and economy of the different rations may be judged.

In the following table are presented initial cost per head (at \$7.50 per hundredweight), feed cost per head, estimated total cost per head (after adding 6 per cent interest on the investment and a marketing expense of \$2), and estimated value per hundredweight at market:

	Initial Cost	Feed Cost	Total Cost	Est. Market Value (per Cwt.)
Lot 1.....	\$27.68	\$10.29	\$40.65	\$5.75
Lot 2.....	27.98	10.09	40.76	5.85
Lot 3.....	27.24	10.50	40.41	6.35
Lot 4.....	27.51	11.02	41.21	6.50
Lot 5.....	27.63	10.83	41.14	5.85
Lot 6.....	27.31	11.44	41.42	6.00
Lot 7.....	27.20	11.38	41.25	6.50
Lot 8.....	26.73	12.89	42.28	6.00

And in this table are shown the estimated weight per head at market, estimated returns per head (including pork), estimated loss per head, and necessary selling price to break even:

	Weight at Market	Returns per Head	Loss per Head	Necessary Price
Lot 1.....	654	\$37.99	\$2.66	\$6.22
Lot 2.....	567	33.17	7.59	7.19
Lot 3.....	567	36.03	4.38	7.12
Lot 4.....	608	39.50	1.71	6.78
Lot 5.....	575	33.63	7.51	7.16
Lot 6.....	599	35.91	5.51	6.92
Lot 7.....	619	40.21	1.04	6.67
Lot 8.....	547	32.82	9.46	7.73

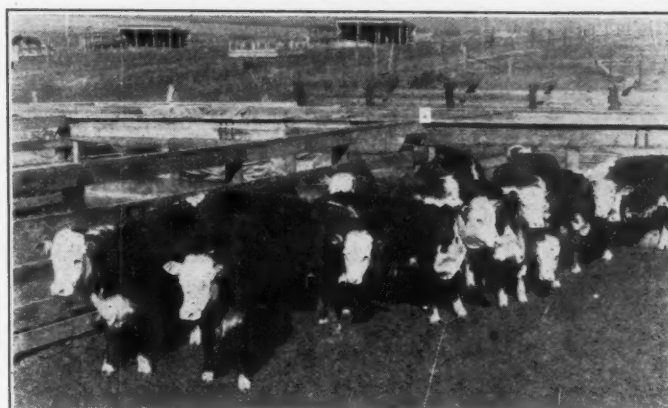
If any lot, with the exception of Lot 8, had returned cost price, they would have shown a margin.

#### Summary

1. While the advantage gained in utilizing cheap roughages in the wintering ration is less when corn is cheap, the roughage produced by the corn plant can still be made to play a very important part in economical feeding operations. This is especially true if the feeder intends to summer-feed either in dry-lot or on grass.

2. While yield to a large extent determines total gain per acre, it does not materially affect the relative difference in gain produced from an acre of silage, fodder, or shelled corn.

3. The calf showing the highest gain is not always the one that returns the most to the feeder. Lot 3 produced less gain per calf than Lot 5 or 6, but returned more per acre than either.



LOT 4—FED CORN SILAGE AND COTTONSEED CAKE

4. Under most conditions, cost per ton of corn fodder to the feeder will be approximately twice the cost per ton of corn silage, if labor in handling the crop is considered.

5. Alfalfa proved to be worth approximately the same per ton as corn fodder in the wintering ration.

6. A ration of corn silage and 1 pound of cottonseed cake per head daily produced 85.66 per cent as much gain as a full feed of shelled corn and alfalfa.

7. More gain was produced from 1 pound of dry matter in the form of silage than was produced from 1 pound of dry matter in the form of ground corn fodder.

8. Ground corn fodder plus 1 pound of cottonseed cake produced (on a three-year weighted average) 89.24 per cent as much gain as silage and cottonseed cake.

9. One pound of cottonseed cake produced 14.29 per cent more gain at 10.2 per cent less cost than 2.02 pounds of alfalfa when used as a supplement to corn silage. (Average of three trials, 18.11 per cent more gain.)

10. One pound of cottonseed cake produced 8.11 per cent more gain at 3.29 per cent less cost than 1.94 pounds of alfalfa when used as a supplement to ground corn fodder. (Average of three trials, 8.27 per cent more gain.)

11. Feeding a limited amount of shelled corn with a full feed of alfalfa proved to be the least satisfactory wintering ration (Lot 2).

12. Ground corn fodder produced approximately 85 per cent as much gain per acre as corn silage



when supplemented with either 1 pound of cottonseed cake or 2 to 3 pounds of alfalfa.

13. One pound of cottonseed cake produced more gain per acre than alfalfa as a protein supplement to either fodder or silage.

14. Fodder produced from 81.86 to 87.78 per cent as many steer day rations as corn silage supplemented with either cake or alfalfa.

15. The corn plant is very deficient in protein, and this deficiency must be met in one form or another, if satisfactory results are to be secured.

16. The lot receiving ground limestone in addition to silage and cottonseed cake made slightly greater gains than Lot 4 (silage and cake). However, this represents the first test of this nature and does not warrant drawing definite conclusions.

17. Cane silage produced less gain per pound of dry matter than corn silage. However, the cane was slightly immature when cut. Further data are necessary to establish the feeding value of cane silage as compared with corn silage.

18. Weather is an important factor in the feeding of ground corn fodder. Winters with excessive rain and snow increase the cost of grinding, as well as the labor in hauling from the field, and make it necessary to grind fresh fodder every few days.

19. Finely cut silage is much more desirable, and less is refused by calves, than coarsely cut silage. This is also true with fodder, and ground fodder is much more palatable to cattle than shredded fodder.

### EXPERIENCE OF A KANSAS FARMER

BY B. M. ANDERSON

Kansas City, Missouri

RECORDS KEPT BY FRED MORGAN, OF ALTA Vista, Kansas, during the last three years show that there is a place for the herd of beef cattle on the average Kansas farm. The farm where these cattle were kept is just an average Kansas farm, located in Geary County. It is an upland farm, with some bluestem pasture. A general diversified system of farming is followed. Feed crops are produced in the form of corn, grain sorghums, and legumes.

With these feeds and pasture available each year, Mr. Morgan conceived the idea of establishing a herd of beef cattle, and finishing the calves produced at an early age by creep-feeding them. This method would provide a market for his feed crops during the winter, and make proper utilization of his pasture during the grazing season.

The table following gives the results of Mr. Morgan's work in the care of his cow herd and the creep-feeding of his three crops of calves during the years 1929, 1930, and 1931:

#### RESULTS OF THREE YEARS' CREEP-FEEDING

Year .....	1929	1930	1931
Average birth date.....	January	Jan. 20	Jan. 25
Date of sale .....	Jan. 5, 1930	Dec. 6, 1930	Nov. 8, 1931
Weight per calf (lbs.).....	742	716	675
Selling price per cwt.....	\$ 16.50	\$13.50	\$10.00
Value per calf.....	122.43	96.66	67.50

#### Cost of Production—

Cost of keep per cow.....	\$44.00	\$40.00	\$31.00
Feed cost per calf.....	33.88	27.88	13.93
Selling expense .....	3.00	3.00	2.00
Total costs .....	\$80.88	\$70.88	\$46.93
Margin per calf.....	\$41.55	\$25.78	\$20.57
Feed cost per cow during winter .....	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$12.00
Summer pasture .....	10.00	8.00	8.00
Interest on cow.....	7.00	5.00	4.00
Insurance, taxes, depreciation .....	2.00	2.00	2.00
To keep extra cow, 95% calf crop.....	2.00	2.00	1.00
Depreciation on value of cows .....	5.00	5.00	2.00
Bull service .....	3.00	3.00	2.00
Total costs .....	\$44.00	\$40.00	\$31.00
Feed Costs—			
Corn .....	\$29.22	\$24.13	\$12.33
Cottonseed meal .....	1.51	1.50	0.75
Alfalfa hay .....	2.25	1.50	0.85
Prairie hay.....	0.90	0.75	.....
Total feed costs....	\$33.88	\$27.88	\$13.93

Such a plan furnished a home market for the feed crops and pasture produced on the farm. Moreover, it paid the usual fixed charges, and returned a margin of \$41.55, \$25.78, and \$20.57 per head during the three-year period, in addition to paying market price for feed and the keep of cow. Beef cattle are living factories which convert the feeds that are produced on the farm into beef.

Mr. Morgan's herd consists of good high-grade Hereford cows. A purebred Hereford bull has been used since the herd was established. The cows are handled in the following manner: They are kept out of doors, and moved from one stock field to another so as to utilize the feed available at the least possible cost, and also to distribute the manure and maintain the productivity of the soil. The winter ration consists of the stock feeds, corn fodder, cane hay, and wheat pasture. During extreme cold or bad weather alfalfa hay is fed in addition.

These cows were bred so that they would calve in January. As the calves were dropped, they were taught to eat grain by giving them free access to grain placed in self-feeders in a creep. After May 1 the cows and calves ran on pasture. Creeps, with feeders for grain in them, are built about the watering-places in the pasture. The calves have been weaned usually about the first of October, and placed in the dry-lot and fed grain until sold.

Such a plan of beef production has proved very advantageous to Mr. Morgan, in that it has (1) resulted in a quick turn-over; (2) provided a home market for a large amount of feeds produced on the farm; (3) reduced labor to a minimum; (4) increased the fertility of the farm; and (5) been profitable (the average return being \$29.30 per head).

In order to do this job, one must use good beef-type cows and the very best registered bull. There are too many who are attempting to follow such a system of beef production who are not paying enough attention to the kind of females they have in their herd, and who are using a scrub or inferior sire at the head of the herd. Today, with prices very low, one should stop and think some about tomorrow. This year, with good purebred bulls selling cheaper than they have for over twenty years, farmers and ranchmen cannot afford to use a scrub or inferior sire. Get a good bull today to head your herd, produce some better calves, and be ready to cash in tomorrow when prices advance! There never was a better time to start a cow herd than the present.

## FEEDERS' DAY IN NEBRASKA

**T**HE TWENTIETH ANNUAL LIVE STOCK FEEDERS' Day was held on the campus of the Agricultural College of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln last month, under the direction of H. J. Gramlich, head of the Animal Husbandry Department.

A report of creep-feeding tests with calves was presented by M. L. Baker, of the North Platte Experiment Station. March and April calves put on self-feeders of shelled corn, along with their mothers' milk, from the last of May until weaning time, and then continued on a fattening ration, have produced beef more rapidly and economically than similar calves not given corn during the first summer, said Mr. Baker, who thought the method of rushing baby beeves to market was practical on the general live-stock farm where a small number of high-quality cows are kept. W. W. Derrick, extension live-stock specialist, led the discussion following Mr. Baker's report. William J. Loeffel summarized the hog experimental work under way. M. A. Alexander gave a progress report of sheep-feeding trials, saying that one year's results indicate that it is advisable to full-feed ewes both grain and roughage, rather than try to save on the grain before or after lambing. D. Burns, of the Cottonseed Crushers' Association, stated that the idea that cottonseed cake is constipating, unpalatable, and poisonous when fed in quantities is without foundation.

Contract feeding is nothing but an advanced form of barter, which enables the live-stock feeder to do business without money, O. O. Waggener, agricultural agent of the Burlington Railroad, told the audience. Over 200,000 sheep and 45,000 cattle were fed by this method last year. The chief advantages of contract feeding lie in the fact that it eases credit and reduces both the feeder's and the grower's risk of financial losses.

Dr. C. W. McCampbell, head of the Animal Husbandry Department at the Kansas State College, declared that young cattle are more profitable than older cattle. He commended the National Live Stock and Meat Board, and denounced propaganda being circulated to reduce the consumption of meat and meat products. Corn was described as the best ensilage crop for farmers by P. H. Stewart, of the Agricultural College. The same types of corn as used for grain are used economically for silage, he said.

## THE WAY OF A RANGE COW

BY J. N. LANGWORTHY

Supervisor, Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming

**Y**OU HAVE DOUBTLESS ALL SEEN COPIES OF Russell's masterpiece, "The Last of Ten Thousand." The cow is poor; she is weak; she is making her last stand—she and her rough-haired little calf. The wolves which have her cornered are licking their jaws in anticipation.

Russell put horns on the cow. The muleys and dehorned cattle were all dead. It takes the heart out of a cow to dehorn her. The best range cattle the world ever saw had horns. I am referring to the old Longhorns of Texas. They had nerve, as well as great rustling ability, handled nicely, and were good mothers. These are qualities which a range cow should have. They are qualities which are found today in many of our well-bred range herds.

I have seen cows from farm bunches which would refuse to mother their calves. Such cows should never be turned on the range. They should be held in a pasture

where they may receive the attention to which they are accustomed. A range cow and a barnyard cow are two different animals. The barnyard cow should be kept on the farm where she belongs.

A typical western range herd puts in most of its time on grass. For generations these cattle have used the same range. A regular system has been worked out. I have in mind the mountain country where I have spent most of my time, with ranches and winter ranges bordering a national forest.

As soon as the snow is off the mountain ranges the old cows get restless. They wish to be on the way to a quiet mountain valley where they have always put in their summers. A range cow, as a rule, will be inclined to return to the same locality, year after year. Over the trail she knows so well, she and her husky young calf make the journey to the mountains, where the lush grass and the cool waters soon cause their coats to shine and their frames to round out. All summer they breathe the perfumed air of the mountain meadows, eat their fill, and lie down among the flowers, putting on the big fat. When the frosty nights of fall arrive, the calf is half as tall as its mother and is no longer dependent upon her milk. An occasional storm whitens the landscape. The flowers have disappeared, the grass has become frosted and lost its relish, and gradually the drift to the winter range begins. Finally, the old cow trails down into the rough breaks of the winter range, with a big weaner tagging at her heels. She has done her part.

## "EAT MEAT—DELICIOUS—NUTRITIOUS!"

BY EDWARD H. TILLSON

Des Moines, Iowa

**T**HE TRIALS OF THE MEAT-PRODUCER ARE WELL portrayed in a humorous skit, written by A. H. Stewart, of Goodlands, Kansas, purporting to be a dialogue between a herdsman and a buyer in the ancient Roman market, an extract from which is:

"HERDSMAN: 'Yet this is extreme quality, in breeding and in finish; flesh marbled to perfection; flesh fit to honor the banquet board of the ladies of the royal court.'

"BUYER: 'Ha! Ha! Thou jokest, herdsman. Hast not heard the *silhouette sweepeth the city* and the *ladies of the court eat no meat?*'

"HERDSMAN: 'The gods defend us! Hath yet another plague come to vex us?'"

Some of Fashion's decrees have been plagues. When she found the "silhouette" to be the proper form for the female figure, and enjoined our ladies of the court to reduce, how did the meat industry meet the situation?

The whole industry—the producer, the packer, the wholesaler, and the retailer—sat supinely twiddling their thumbs while the raisin men extolled their "sun-maid" raisins, the orange-growers waxed eloquent over "sunkist" oranges, and the processors and canners of vegetables and the manufacturers of cereals spent thousands, possibly millions, in advertising, in propaganda, even to thrusting their blatant matter upon us, over the radio, at breakfast, at lunch, at dinner—all to educate the women to eschew meat. They have been mum while vegetarians put forth the doctrine that a meat diet is conducive to rheumatism; and, to cap the climax, they have, without protest, allowed their tax money to pay our so-called agricultural colleges to teach our students from the farms, not alone how to prepare and serve the very cheapest cuts of meat, but even how to cook and serve *meatless meals*.

The results have been that our per-apita consumption of



meat has rapidly declined. To such an extent has the "silhouette swept our cities" that some of our foremost doctors have become alarmed, and have delivered discourses and published articles, based on facts drawn from their every-day practice, telling the women that too much reducing lowers their resistance to disease, and warning them that such will render them an easy prey to that dread malady, tuberculosis.

The federal government has established inspection at all packing plants doing interstate business to guard against diseased meats of all kinds. The federal and state governments have spent millions of dollars to clean tuberculosis out of the herds, droves, and flocks of the country. A National Meat Board has been established, and skilled judges of beef carcasses have been placed at the packing plants to grade and mark such carcasses as "Prime," "Choice," or "Good," if they are so found. If not so found, they are not marked at all; which means that the buyer runs his own risk as to quality. This grading is done so that the consumer can see that he gets what he is buying, thereby helping to drive out of business the dishonest retail butcher who palms off "tiger meat" for "prime beef" on the customer who is not posted as to how to judge beef on the block. Even the packers have been branding their beef to help the uninformed customer to get what he orders and pays for.

Notwithstanding all the foregoing, the meat-producers, packers, wholesalers, and retailers have never thought of informing, much less proving to, the "ladies of the court" that, if they wish for strength instead of fat, they should eat meat instead of the many cereals, nearly all of which are to be served with fattening cream and sugar. They have never thought of explaining to their reducing wives, daughters, and sweethearts that all grains and many vegetables are carbohydrates, producers of fatty tissue, and that meat is a protein, a producer of physical and nervous energy. They have never had the nerve to show up much of that fallacy that meat induces rheumatism, or the gumption to produce proof that there are foods, available at all times, which, if taken along with meat, will neutralize that tendency, if any, to induce rheumatism. They have failed and neglected to inform the meat-eating public of the Meat Board, and what it is trying to do for them in the way of protecting them from the dishonest butcher, or to instruct them as to what to do to get the benefit of or help from said board. A sum of money equal even to one-half of that spent simply to broadcast the programs of the several breakfast foods, if used by a skilled advertising man or concern, would do wonders toward getting true data before the meat-consuming public, thereby correcting many erroneous conclusions, and combating and overcoming false and vicious propaganda against a meat diet.

To my poor way of thinking, it would not cost very much to prove to our "ladies of the court," who would fain effect the "silhouette," yet believe that meat makes them fat, that one does not need to be a skilled zoologist, naturalist, or dietitian just to look at a beef cow's broad back, well-sprung ribs, and deep, wide brisket—all of them loaded with flesh and fat—and then at the meat-eating dog, to note that the vegetarian cow has, proportionately, an infinitely larger digestive apparatus than has the meat-eating dog, or, at a glance, to see the difference in adipose tissue between the grain (breakfast food) eating hog and the carnivorous cat.

#### To Regulate Philippine Meat Imports

A board has been appointed in the Philippine Islands to draft regulations for the importation of meat, now free of any but sanitary restrictions.

### GOVERNMENT GRADING OF BEEF

**G**RATIFYING PROGRESS CONTINUES TO BE MADE in government grading and stamping of meat. During the calendar year 1931 a total of 149,708,868 pounds of beef were graded and stamped, against only 60,200,852 pounds in 1930, or an increase of nearly 149 per cent. Translated into carcass equivalents, this was equal to 286,454 beef carcasses in 1931 and 111,369 in 1930. Besides the beef, 7,160 pounds of veal were graded and stamped last year, this service having been inaugurated in February. Of lamb, 1,378,196 pounds were stamped in 1931. Since the grading of lamb did not begin until November, 1930, no comparison is possible here.

In addition to the above, 19,902,646 pounds of meat were graded (but not stamped) in 1931 for the Veterans' Administration, the United States Shipping Board, the War Department, and commercial establishments, compared with 19,830,113 pounds in 1930.

In March of this year a new high record was set, with 16,329,433 pounds of beef being stamped. This is an increase of 54 per cent over March, 1931.

A poster has recently been prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, to be issued free to users of government-graded and stamped beef, such as hotels and restaurants, for the purpose of educating consumers concerning the advantages of this system, and of assisting operators in procuring the best results from their efforts to popularize the service. The poster, which is printed in colors, shows a choice rib of beef ready to serve, and a fresh loin and rib with the ribbon brand "U. S. CHOICE STEER" distinctly displayed. In large letters the announcement is made: "We Serve U. S. Government Graded and Stamped Beef."

### KANSAS HAS MEAT WEEK

**W**ICHITA, KANSAS, HAD A "MEAT-FOR-HEALTH Week" last month, described by the National Live Stock and Meat Board, which sponsored the undertaking, as "perhaps the most intensive and highly successful project of the sort ever undertaken." Full co-operation was given by local groups of the live-stock and meat industry, as well as by business generally.

The campaign was built around a school of meat-cooking, conducted by Miss Inez S. Willson, home economics director of the Meat Board. In addition, there were cutting demonstrations and training schools for retailers, daily radio talks, etc. Advertisements and news stories in the local papers, and decorative displays in shop windows throughout the city, riveted the attention of the public on the subject of meat. Thousands of pieces of educational literature were placed in the hands of housewives, and from twenty-five bill-boards the message was proclaimed: "Nothing Takes the Place of MEAT—Greatest Known Source of Strength."

### SLAUGHTER BY RETAILERS AND WHOLESALERS

**D**ATA ON MEAT ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED IN 1929 by retailers in cities of all sizes, by wholesalers in cities of less than 10,000 population, and on farms have been compiled by the Census Bureau. The term "wholesaler," as here used, includes produce buyers, live-stock dealers, meat wholesalers, and some slaughter-houses, but does not include wholesale slaughterers and packers. Only such retailers are reported as did their own killing for their trade, but not those who had animals slaughtered for them by others.



Farm killings are either for home use or for neighborhood sale.

The number of retailers reporting was 13,089; of wholesale establishments, 1,117; and of farms, 180,456 for cattle, 183,266 for calves, 44,158 for sheep, and 3,228,454 for hogs.

Following are the numbers of the different classes of animals killed by the three groups during the year:

	Retailers	Wholesalers	Farms
Cattle .....	880,253	234,528	342,938
Calves .....	716,026	286,243	457,053
Sheep .....	193,372	155,860	328,231
Goats .....	22,571	3,378	.....
Swine .....	1,496,935	397,133	10,738,502
Totals .....	*3,317,543	*1,089,290	11,866,724

\* Includes a few thousand animals not classified.

Combined numbers of animals slaughtered, as reported from the three sources, were: cattle, 1,457,719; calves, 1,459,322; sheep and lambs, 677,463; goats, 25,949; swine, 12,632,570; unclassified, 20,534; making a grand total of 16,273,557. When to these are added the 86,840,340 head killed by establishments engaged in wholesale slaughtering and meat-packing (federally, state, and municipally inspected), we get an aggregate of 103,113,897 head of meat animals killed in the United States in 1929. Truly an astounding figure!

## MONTANA STOCKMEN MEET AT GREAT FALLS

IN THE ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT GEORGE CLEMONS and First Vice-President Julian Terrett, both of whom were unable to be present on account of illness, W. H. Donald, second vice-president, read the presidential address, prepared by Mr. Terrett, at the forty-eighth annual convention of the Montana Stock Growers' Association, held at Great Falls, May 25-27, 1932. Mr. Terrett, in voicing his faith in the future, declared that recovery of the stock-growing industry from its present predicament will depend upon adjustment to the new value of the dollar. Secretary E. A. Phillips, in presenting his report, urged the importance of a large and active membership.

Wallis Huidekoper, of Two Dot, spoke on herd management and efficient methods of calf production, giving it as his opinion that the day of marketing prime Montana grass-fed beef at eastern markets is past, and that the industry in the future should concentrate on raising a standard-bred calf for fall delivery. Dr. W. J. Butler, state veterinarian, stressed the necessity of proper feeding in maintaining healthy stock. L. L. LaReau, live-stock agent for the Great Northern Railway, discussed transit feed costs. Glen Smith, assistant regional forester, explained the attitude of the Forest Service on live-stock, game, and recreational problems arising on the national forests.

Thomas A. Ross, of Chinook, outlined the program of the Montana Live Stock Marketing Association. W. C. Wright, of Denver, advocated support of the oleomargarine industry, provided domestic fats be used. The tax situation was dealt with by James H. Stewart, chairman of the State Board of Equalization.

The forenoon of the last day was devoted to a program featuring Montana feeds for live stock, in charge of Louis Vinke, head of the Department of Animal Husbandry at the State College. Among the feed specialists who gave talks were P. V. Slagsvold, of the Experiment Station staff; M. L. Wilson, economist; M. A. Bell, of the North Montana Experiment Station; Dr. Marsh, of the Veterinary Department;

Sam Sloan, extension agronomist; Louis Vinke, W. F. Dickson, P. R. Trigg, and Irving J. Courtice.

Notwithstanding the market depression, a spirit of optimism was noticeable at the convention, due in large measure to the favorable feed and range outlook.

Following is a synopsis of the resolutions passed:

Favoring transfer of public domain to states without restrictions;

Requesting reduction and extension of payments on rentals and grazing leases on state lands;

Urging tax relief through curtailment of governmental expenses;

Asking that further facilities for schools and new roads be withheld pending improvement in business conditions;

Favoring reduction of elk herd in Sun River district;

Advocating reasonable game conservation program, but objecting to planting of elk on ranges now grazed by domestic animals;

Asking that 25 cents out of each hunting and fishing license be set aside as a predatory-animal fund;

Protesting against attempt of federal government to introduce reindeer meat as food for American people;

Favoring modification of Packers' Consent Decree to permit packers to use their marketing facilities more efficiently; Opposing importation into state and propagation of German police dogs;

Asking that statute of limitations be fixed at two years in suits for shortages against transportation companies;

Urging support of market agencies participating in campaign of National Live Stock and Meat Board for advertising of meat;

Requesting Congress to place tax of 10 cents a pound on oleomargarine not made wholly from ingredients produced in United States;

Indorsing 4-H Club work;

Requesting Live Stock Sanitary Board, in co-operation with Bureau of Animal Industry, to continue creation of modified tuberculosis-free accredited areas in Montana, where financially feasible;

Commending Secretary of Agriculture for administration of Packers and Stock Yards Act, and urging that further hearings be held on commission and yard charges;

Asking that privilege of free return transportation on one-car shipments of cattle be extended to Montana;

Expressing appreciation of work done for live-stock industry by President Clemow, and wishing him a speedy recovery.

Charles L. Anceney, of Bozeman, manager of the Flying D Ranch, was elected president by a majority of eight votes over Julian Terrett, of Brandenburg. W. H. Donald, of Melville, was chosen first vice-president, and John Arnold, of Birney, second vice-president. E. A. Phillips, of Helena, was reappointed secretary. Selection of the next place of meeting was left to the Executive Committee.

## AMERICAN NATIONAL INDORSED BY DELTA ASSOCIATION

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DELTA County (Colorado) Live Stock Association on May 27, 1932, a resolution was passed expressing hearty accord with the policies of the American National Live Stock Association, and indorsement of its action in favor of a reduction in grazing fees on national forests, in opposition to the program of the Bureau of Animal Industry for testing range cattle for tuberculosis, in the interest of a decrease in freight rates, and on other matters of importance to stockmen.

Another resolution commended the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association for the part it had taken in having land values lowered 20 per cent for taxation purposes, for its opposition to the government plan for testing of range cattle, and for its protest against the attempt of

the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railway to have intrastate freight rates increased 15 per cent over those fixed by the Interstate Commerce Commission for interstate traffic in the Mountain-Pacific Territory. The Colorado Public Utilities Commission was thanked for its refusal to grant this increase. Appreciation was voted of the action of the Secretary of Agriculture in cutting forest fees 50 per cent during the current year.

R. F. Rockwell is president of this association, and George C. Wilson secretary.

### RETAILERS VOTE ASSESSMENT FOR PROMOTING CAUSE OF MEAT

A PROPOSAL FOR A LEVY OF TWO CENTS ON each 100 pounds of meat purchased at wholesale, the resultant fund, estimated at \$9,000,000, to be spent by the retail trade for self-regulation, newspaper advertising, and other means of building up good-will and a better understanding of the value of meat in the diet, was contained in a resolution passed at the annual meeting of the National Association of Retail Meat Dealers in Toledo, Ohio, last month.

Other resolutions called upon Congress to impose a tariff on foreign oils and fats, "now demoralizing the home market," and urged the meat industry to get solidly behind government grading.

### GOLDEN JUBILEE OF HEREFORD ASSOCIATION

ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE THAT ARRANGEMENTS have been completed for combining the celebration of the "Fiftieth Anniversary Show" of the American Hereford Cattle Breeders' Association with the American Royal Live Stock Show to be held at Kansas City, Missouri, November 12-19, 1932.

It is confidently expected that this great event will enlist the support of Hereford breeders throughout the country, and that entries and attendance will far surpass all previous records. The price list for Herefords will be \$75,000—five times as large as ever before, and the largest ever offered in a single show for any individual breed.

Charles D. Carey, first vice-president of the American National Live Stock Association, is president of the Hereford association, and R. J. Kinzer secretary.

### TEXAS CO-OPERATIVE RANKS FIRST AT FORT WORTH

IN THE LESS THAN TWO YEARS THAT THE Texas Live Stock Marketing Association—a member of the National Live Stock Marketing Association—has been operating, it has attained to first place at Fort Worth, now handling 23 per cent of the carlot shipments to that market.

Its record has been one of steady progress. Organized in July, 1930, during the remainder of that year it did 4.5 per cent of the carlot business at Fort Worth. In the first six months of 1931 the proportion was increased to 10.8 per cent, and in the second six months to 12.8 per cent. This brought the association to third place. In the first quarter of the present year the co-operative handled 21 per cent, and in April reached the high standard of 23 per cent.

H. L. Kokernot is national director of the Texas association, and John Burns manager.

Corresponding progress is reported by the Intermountain Live Stock Marketing Association, functioning on the Denver market as a sales agency and as an intermediary in the direct movement of feeder cattle and lambs throughout the territory which it serves. This association has now been in operation a sufficient length of time to make possible comparisons which indicate a healthy growth and its assured standing among co-operative organizations.

The Intermountain started business September 1, 1930. A year later, during the four months September to December, 1931, the volume of its operations had increased 34 per cent over the same period of the initial year. Total market receipts were slightly less during the period in 1931 than in 1930. For the first four months of the current year—January to April, inclusive—business shows an increase of 49 per cent over the like period in 1931. It should be noted, however, that total market receipts during this period of 1932 were about 10 per cent greater than in 1931.

C. N. Arnett is general manager at Denver and member of the Board of National Directors.

### STATE OF IDAHO ACCREDITED

ON JUNE 1, 1932, IDAHO WAS DESIGNATED A "modified accredited area," signifying that all its cattle have been proved by official test to be practically free from tuberculosis. This is the first state west of the Mississippi River to be thus pronounced clean territory, six states east of the river having passed the test—North Carolina, Maine, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Ohio.

Since the work began in Idaho, nearly 900,000 cattle have received the tuberculin test, disclosing about 4,500 reactors, or just the one-half of 1 per cent which is the maximum allowed under the accreditation rules. All reactors were removed and slaughtered.

### THE CALENDAR

- June 13-14, 1932—Annual Convention of Western South Dakota Stock Growers' Association, Rapid City, S. D.
- June 16-18, 1932—Annual Convention of Nebraska Stock Growers' Association, Scottsbluff, Neb.
- July 18-19, 1932—Midsummer Meeting of Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association, Buena Vista, Colo.
- August 20-27, 1932—National Swine Show, Springfield, Ill.
- August 29-31, 1932—National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- October 3-9, 1932—Dairy Cattle Congress and National Belgian Horse Show, Waterloo, Iowa.
- October 4-6, 1932—Annual Convention of National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation, San Francisco, Cal.
- October 22-29, 1932—Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Ore.
- October 29-November 4, 1932—Ak-Sar-Ben Live Stock Show, Omaha, Neb.
- November 7-10, 1932—Kansas National Live Stock Show, Wichita, Kan.
- November 12-19, 1932—American Royal Live Stock Show and Fiftieth Anniversary Show of American Hereford Cattle Breeders' Association, Kansas City, Mo.
- November 14-16, 1932—Junior Live Stock Show, San Francisco, Cal.
- November 16-25, 1932—Annual Convention of National Grange, Winston-Salem, N. C.
- November 17-18, 1932—Annual Convention of California Wool Growers' Association, San Francisco, Cal.
- November 26-December 3, 1932—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, Ill.
- November 26-December 4, 1932—Great Western Live Stock Show, Los Angeles, Cal.
- January 12-14, 1933—Thirty-sixth Annual Convention of American National Live Stock Association, Ogden, Utah.
- March 11-19, 1933—Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth, Tex.



# THE PRODUCER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

IN THE INTEREST OF THE

LIVE STOCK INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES

BY THE

AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION  
PUBLISHING COMPANY

Subscription: One Year, \$1; Three Years, \$2.75; Six Years, \$5  
Advertising Rates on Request

515 COOPER BUILDING, DENVER, COLORADO

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Volume XIV JUNE, 1932 Number 1

## COMMISSION RATES

NOT IN A GENERATION HAS SO MUCH attention been given to analyzing the cost of doing business as is the case today. Profits are elusive, and for the time being there does not seem to be anything that can be done about it. Hence the desperate effort to reduce costs.

Under such conditions, it is unfortunate for the live-stock industry that it has so little control over its marketing machinery. Each individual can, and long ago did, apply the pruning-knife at home. He has a voice in school, township, county, and state matters wherein the burden of taxation lies. But when his live stock is loaded on the cars, it is out of his control. Relief from the excessive burden of marketing costs, consequently, has been very slow in coming.

The railroads are still obsessed with the delusion that they can improve their financial status by adding to their freight rates, and, instead of securing any necessary reductions, stockmen have had to put up good hard cash to fight against increases. Stock-yard companies appear unwilling voluntarily to share in the readjustment that is inevitable, and are resorting to court action, in the only two cases where reductions have been ordered (Denver and St. Joseph), to

prevent any relief being granted to shippers. But sufficient progress has been made in the work of fixing commission rates by the Packers and Stock Yards Administration, so that a competitive situation is developing and hastening the necessary adjustment.

Rates were first lowered at Omaha two years ago; then at Sioux City last August. Next St. Paul made a voluntary agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture, and new rates were put into effect about April 1, without the expense of a formal hearing. More recently the long-pending decisions at Kansas City and St. Joseph were issued, and immediately adopted at the latter market. At Kansas City, however, all commission agencies—co-operative and old-line—have filed new tariffs of their own, effective May 23, making slight reductions, and apparently intend to reject the administration order; which means that it will probably be a year or two before the stockmen receive the full benefit to which they are entitled.

This action on the part of the commission men will not be well received by the industry. For months stockmen have been urging the necessity of lowering commissions. The reply has been that the matter was up to the Packers and Stock Yards Administration and out of the hands of the commission men themselves. The hearing on which the secretary's order was based began in December, 1930. No credit can be given the commission firms for waiting until the very last minute, and then asserting their right to determine for themselves what the rates should be. It is merely a trick to gain more time, and to exact a greater toll from a prostrate industry for as long a period as possible, than the secretary found to be justified after an extended hearing.

The right of the secretary to fix rates has been upheld by the United States Supreme Court in the Omaha case. As stated above, his orders are now in effect at Omaha, Sioux City, and St. Joseph, as well as by compromise at St. Paul. The same method of determining fair rates was used in each case. The maximum rate allowed on cattle at Kansas City is 50 cents per car higher than that allowed at Omaha and Sioux City. It is the same as the rate accepted at St. Joseph. It is with poor grace, indeed, that Kansas City claims any right to a preferred status. Thousands of dollars will be spent in legal fees and court costs that should go back to the country in reduced commissions. As surely as the present attitude of the railroads, the stock-yard companies, and the commission men continues, just as surely will our marketing system eventually change. The breeder-feeder movement and the decentralization of the packing industry mark the first turn in the road.

"I like your magazine very much."—P. F. DUNN, Corpus Christi, Tex.



## CONSENT DECREE

**T**HE ACTION OF THE UNITED STATES Supreme Court in denying the petition of Armour & Co. and Swift & Co. for a rehearing in the matter of the Packers' Consent Decree, following closely on the reversal by that court of the decision of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, writes finis to another long chapter in the history of that now famous case.

The decision is received with mixed sentiments by the country in general, and by the live-stock industry in particular. While there are those who feel that the original decree was accepted by both parties as a final solution of a difficult problem, and that as such it should remain in force indefinitely, others believe that the rapid development of the chain-store method of distribution—an infant in swaddling clothes when the decree was entered in 1920—has so altered the situation that a severe handicap is placed on the four big packers embraced in the decree. The fact that a number of the so-called "little" packers of fifteen years ago are now doing a business that runs into the millions in annual sales, at the same time that some of the chain stores are engaging in the meat-packing business, places the "big four," restricted by the terms of the decree, in an unenviable competitive position.

In fairness, it must be said that Justice Bailey, of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, made an exhaustive investigation of the matter, and that his opinion, granting modification to the extent of handling unrelated lines at wholesale, but denying the packers the right to engage in retail operations or to own stock-yards, seemed to be in line with the great mass of testimony offered by witnesses from the different groups interested. The court was unimpressed with the need of granting modification as to entering the retail field, inasmuch as representatives of the packers themselves admitted on the stand that they had no present intention of expanding in that direction, and as many competitors, unhampered by the decree, testified that they had no desire to do so.

No great importance was attached to the stock-yard feature, there being practically no change in the conditions affecting it since the decree was imposed.

The decision of the United States Supreme Court deals more with the original issues, and less with the changed setting, than did the opinion of the lower court. It admits the power of a court of equity to modify the terms of the decree on a sufficient showing of altered circumstances.

Settled for the time being, the question no doubt will be raised again in the future. The inability of the packers to operate as profitably under present conditions as some of their competitors not affected

by the decree, even though volume has been well maintained, may lead to the reopening of the case sooner than would otherwise be likely. The live-stock industry is concerned primarily in the retailing of meats and the ownership of stock-yards; secondarily, in whatever benefits may come to it through lessening the cost of distribution of its product by permitting the packers to handle unrelated lines at wholesale.

There never was a valid reason for the prohibition against the retailing of meats. The packers had never engaged in that field, although often asked to do so by producers, in despair at the great spread between prices on the hoof and on the retail counter. Its inclusion in the decree was purely gratuitous.

The ownership of stock-yards was one of the main points of attack in the government's case against the packers, and the prohibition accepted in the settlement thereof. The facts that the first reduction in yardage rates ordered by the Secretary of Agriculture, under the power conferred upon him in the Packers and Stock Yards Act, was at a packer-owned stock-yard; that the reduction was a modest one, based on a full hearing, and badly needed by the industry under existing conditions; and that nevertheless the reduction is now being contested in court, lead **THE PRODUCER** to believe that the provisions of the decree as to stock-yard ownership should remain unchanged, and should be enforced until the packers are divested of their interests. The market places of the country should by all means remain neutral trading ground, and their owners should not expect to make normal profits at a time when the industry from whose patronage they draw their income is struggling for its very existence.

## IMPORTS OF CATTLE AND DRESSED BEEF

**A** YEAR AGO A REQUEST WAS FILED with the United States Tariff Commission by a small live-stock exchange in an eastern city for a decrease in the tariff on cattle. After vigorous protests by the American National Live Stock Association, the American Farm Bureau Federation, and many state organizations, ably supported by various senators and representatives in Congress alert to the welfare of the industry, the request was finally withdrawn.

In recent weeks similar requests have been filed by individuals living in Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois (two), and Minnesota. More recently it has been rumored that Argentine interests have been renewing their spasmodic efforts to secure permission from the Secretary of Agriculture for the importation of beef from their country. This attempt

is logical from their standpoint; but, considering the fact that every outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the United States in recent years, of which the origin of the infection could be determined, was traced to South America, it is not likely that the Secretary of Agriculture will take upon himself the responsibility of certifying that no foot-and-mouth disease exists in that part of the world. Such certification is required by the terms of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act before any imports can be made.

No satisfactory reason can be advanced, however, why any individual farmer in this country should ask for a reduction in the tariff on cattle. In the only case which could be definitely followed (one of the applications from Illinois), apparently the request was made at the solicitation of Canadian friends, and was withdrawn when a fuller understanding of the situation was obtained. The application from a Maryland farmer was similarly withdrawn.

THE PRODUCER cannot help but believe that the other applications, if all the facts were known, would be found to be due to Canadian influences, or to suggestions by parties who expected to profit in the process of moving cattle from Canada into the feedlots of American farmers. It is quite apparent that the effort to lower the rate is organized, with the motives keeping under cover. Surely no one will contend that domestic cattle are not available in sufficient quantity and at bargain prices to supply every possible demand that exists today. The western producer in many instances during recent months has had either to feed out his own cattle or to make unusual contracts for placing them on farms in the Corn Belt to be finished, due to the fact that credit for feeding operations has not been available in normal amounts, and the demand has suffered accordingly.

Happily the Tariff Commission so far has not acceded to the requests and ordered a formal hearing. The industry should not be put to the expense of fighting such an action under present conditions. It is unfortunate that men can be found to lend their names to an attempt to break down our tariff wall and demoralize the industry, not because of any great personal interest in the matter, but simply to accommodate some friend. It shows how very necessary it is for the cattlemen to keep their organizations in fighting trim, ever vigilant in behalf of the industry.

### CREDIT

**T**HE LAST FEW MONTHS HAVE FORCIBLY brought home full knowledge of the extent to which business in this country is done on, and is dependent upon, credit. Under normal conditions, when credit is easily available little thought is given

to the tremendous part it plays in every-day business. Today, when the harassed business man does not know which way to turn, he realizes that what he has taken as a matter of course, like sunshine, air, or water, is as essential as are these, and that without it business shrivels as does the plant denied the rain.

The present Congress has passed various bills which had as their purpose the easing of the credit situation. While these bills, especially the Reconstruction Finance Act, have helped the banks and the railroads, so far the benefit does not seem to have gone on to the individual producer to any great extent. The fear that has been slowly strangling business continues to urge caution on the part of bankers. Enabled, through the relief measure referred to, to put their own house in order, they seem in the main to have adopted a policy of taking no chances, which means advancing very little credit under present conditions. Here and there bankers have helped organize credit corporations for the purpose of rediscounting with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, requiring borrowers to take 10 per cent of their loan in stock. Some objection has been made to this scheme, especially in sections where the experience with the War Finance Corporation is still a painful memory; but the loan values established are more liberal than offered elsewhere. Borrowers object to the requirement of purchasing stock in an organization over which they have no control. Admittedly the corporation offers help only for the duration of the emergency, and no doubt will be liquidated once the controlling banks are again able to handle the loans direct.

Credit corporations established under the Agricultural Marketing Act are meeting the situation in fine shape in many sections of the country. Conservatively managed, with an eye to permanence rather than to expediency, they have stood the test of a difficult plight, and are today the mainstay of the livestock industry wherever operating. Generally speaking, borrowers are not asked to purchase stock. In one or two districts such requirement was made in the initial organization period. New units are being added as needed. Criticized mercilessly on the ground that it is "government in business," no satisfactory explanation is forthcoming from the critics as to why operations under the Agricultural Marketing Act to help the producer come under the head of "government in business," while operations under the Reconstruction Finance Act to help banks fall under a private business rating. Strange to say, some of those who were the quickest to censure the Agricultural Marketing Act were the first to run to the government for aid under the Reconstruction Finance Act. Apparently it makes a difference whose ox is being gored.



Regardless of the source, we must today have either credit or liquidation. No expansion is possible or desirable. Between the banks still interested in the live-stock business, and the various loan agencies now in operation or in process of organization, there should be very little real distress. It will take clear thinking, careful management, and full co-operation to turn the trick.

### C. Dwight Marsh

**C.** DWIGHT MARSH DIED IN WASHINGTON, D. C., on April 23. Dr. Marsh until last year, when the age-limit rules of the government forced his retirement, was in charge of poisonous-plant investigations in the Bureau of Animal Industry. In that capacity, he made an annual pilgrimage to the West, spending his summers at government experiment stations, where he directed the work of a corps of assistants. Much of the progress made in the study of noxious vegetation in the range states was due to his effort. For many remedies developed and means suggested for reducing losses from plant poisoning, stockmen owe him a large debt of gratitude. Several contributions to the columns of THE PRODUCER in past years testified to his industry and knowledge of his subject. From his visits to our office, we have the recollection of a genial, quietly efficient man, who inspired confidence and affection.

### COMMISSION RATES REDUCED

#### St. Joseph

**F**OLLOWING INFORMAL CONFERENCES BETWEEN representatives of the Packers and Stock Yards Administration and the St. Joseph Live Stock Exchange, together with the two co-operatives operating on the St. Joseph market, new commission tariffs have been accepted for filing by the Secretary of Agriculture, effective May 18, 1932. This makes unnecessary an order based upon the formal hearing held a year ago, which otherwise would have been issued soon.

The new rates are expected to save shippers about \$100,000 a year. On rail shipments, the cattle schedule has been reduced from a minimum of \$15 and a maximum of \$19 a car to \$13 and \$15.50, respectively. The rate on sheep in double-deck cars is lowered from \$20 to \$17. Driven-in cattle will henceforth pay 70 instead of 75 cents a head, and calves 35 instead of 40. Rates on hogs have been correspondingly reduced.

#### Kansas City

On May 18, new rates for selling and buying live stock at Kansas City were prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture, to become effective thirty days thereafter. As at St. Joseph, commissions on cattle shipped by rail were fixed at a minimum of \$13 and a maximum of \$15.50, as compared with the previous rates of \$15 and \$19. On sheep, the flat rate of \$14 on single-deck shipments was reduced to a minimum of \$10 and a maximum of \$12, and the double-deck rate

from \$20 to \$17. On single-deck shipments of hogs the new rates were \$10 minimum and \$12 maximum, as against the old rates of \$12 and \$14. Per-head rates on trucked-in consignments were lowered from 75 to 70 cents in the case of cattle, from 30 to 25 cents on hogs, and from 25 to 20 cents on sheep. It is estimated that approximately \$250,000 would be saved to shippers at this market by this tariff.

The new schedule was described as somewhat simpler in structure than that formerly in operation. It applied in substance to all patrons of the market, including traders, who heretofore have paid one-half of the regular rates.

The order resulted from hearings conducted by the Packers and Stock Yards Administration, beginning in December, 1930, and ending in February of the following year, to inquire into the reasonableness of the rates charged by commission men. It was based on conditions existing at Kansas City in 1929, which was taken as a fair test year.

As a compromise move, permission for a voluntary reduction of commission charges was asked last month by the Kansas City Live Stock Exchange and co-operative companies not belonging to that body. In the requested schedule, selling charges generally were fixed on a per-head basis, with lower rates for drafts of over twenty head. It is claimed that reductions would average 10 per cent on cattle, 10 to 11 per cent on sheep, and 15 to 16 per cent on hogs. Buying charges would retain the maximum carload rate. No distinction would be made between rail and trucked-in charges on hogs and calves, and on cattle over 800 pounds. However, the absence of maximum carload rates would mean that the tariff would be very costly to shippers of western feeder cattle, although more favorable to shippers of fat cattle. Twenty head of the latter would pay a commission of \$14, while forty head of 700-pound feeders would pay \$20, and fifty head of 500-pound stockers would pay \$24. Under the secretary's order, the maximum on either the forty- or the fifty-head lot would be \$15.50. The maximum heretofore existing was \$19. It would mean a substantial increase, entirely unjustifiable, on thousands of western shipments.

This tariff, which, with its reductions, was still considerably higher than that ordered into effect by the secretary, after a conference was pronounced unacceptable by the latter.

#### East St. Louis

Negotiations between the Live Stock Exchange at the National (East St. Louis) Stock Yards and the Secretary of Agriculture for a compromise tariff of commission charges, held last month, did not result in an agreement, and a formal hearing has been ordered to begin on June 13. Meanwhile, a tariff filed by members of the exchange, with rates somewhat lower than those previously prevailing, has been permitted to go into effect, without prejudice to any finding of reasonable rates that the secretary may later make.

#### Cincinnati

The Producers' Co-operative Commission Association and all but two members of the Live Stock Exchange at Cincinnati have filed tariffs reducing commission rates.

### LOWER FEED CHARGES AT STOCK-YARDS

**C**ORN HAS BEEN REDUCED IN PRICE FROM \$1.15 to \$1.05 a bushel at the Chicago stock-yards, and from 95 to 75 cents a bushel at St. Joseph, it is announced by Dr. J. R. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry. Prices on timothy, alfalfa, and wild hay have been lowered from \$30 to \$28 a ton at Ogden, Utah, and on corn from \$2.50 to \$2.25 per hundredweight.



# THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

## NEWS FROM THE HIGHLAND COUNTRY

MARFA, TEX., May 21, 1932.

### TO THE PRODUCER:

Spring started off with some good rains, but along came a spell of freezing weather, which killed all vegetation over a large part of west Texas and caused one of the severest setbacks we have ever experienced. Our last fall rains were light, and very little winter grass was made. Consequently many of our cattle had to be fed a portion of cottonseed cake. Coupled with the scarcity of money, ranching has been as tough as some other vocations.

During the past two weeks bountiful rains have been falling over a vast area of west Texas—as much as six inches; but the Big Bend country, comprising Brewster, Jeff Davis, and Presidio Counties, has not been quite so fortunate. However, what rain has fallen has filled some of the water-tanks, started the grass, and allowed most of the ranchmen to discontinue feeding. Showers continue to fall somewhere each day.

Cattle are in fair to good condition. The calf crop is going to be good. At least 70 per cent of the calves are on the ground, and a large number have already been branded. We brand, castrate, and dehorn in this country while calves are small, as we have found it does not hurt nearly so much, and the calves are easier to handle.

For the past four years many of the master-minds of Texas have been earnestly working on the proposition of getting the farmers of the state to feed Texas cattle in Texas. Though feeding conditions, so far as prices for the finished product are concerned, have been very uncertain the last few years, feeding cattle in Texas has gained much headway. Farmers have been able to market through cattle an otherwise unsalable forage and grain crop. Texas raises more feeder cattle and lambs than any other state in the Union. We also raise a greater variety of feed crops. The logical thing to do is to utilize these products to the best advantage. By feeding cattle, we not only utilize our feed crops, but build up our soil, allowing our farmers to rotate crops and get away from the one-crop cotton. In the past we have had

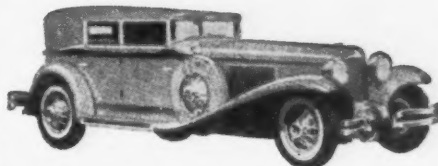


## Styles Change in Autos—Why Not in Herefords?



YOU wouldn't think of buying a car that looked like this one on the left, would you? Funny-looking thing; high up off the ground; light underpinning; nothing at all attractive about it.

NOW, this is a different story. Look at this low-down, smooth, blocky, graceful "creature" of the roads, shown on the right. You wouldn't mind owning a Cord car, would you? And, what's more, if you had such a one, you'd be mighty proud of it, and give it the best of care.



Yet it's a fairly simple matter to change the style and appearance of an automobile. Even Mr. Ford only takes six months or so to alter completely the lines of his car.

How different with cattle: years upon years, often a lifetime, spent in steadfast devotion to an ideal representing the best type of beef cattle. A much bigger task to cut down the "clearance" of a Hereford bull, to thicken and deepen the body, and produce that smoothness of finish and "coat" comparable to the streamline of our present-day cars.

And just as it is with the new cars, so it is with the "modern" Hereford; you not only get the greatest pleasure out of owning this kind, as with the auto, but it is

also the kind that will make you more money. No car, however modern, will run without expense; yet these good Herefords will pay for what goes into them, and return a profit on top of it.

We are producing this kind at WHR. Years of painstaking effort have accomplished much in fixing this type and quality in WHR Prince Dominos. If you will buy and own these cattle, you will be taking advantage of this constructive breeding work.

There never was a better time to get started with good Herefords. Quality and breeding are stronger than ever before, and prices only a small part of what they have been in the past. **BUY NOW.**

**Range men! We have several carloads of real bulls ready for heavy service on the range.**

**Write us about them.**

**WYOMING HEREFORD RANCH, Cheyenne, Wyoming**

to pay the freight on meat both ways, sending our cattle to eastern feed-lots and having the finished product return as meat for our table.

There has been very little activity in cattle-trading here this spring, due to the fact that there were very few steers held over.

DR. A. J. HOFFMAN,

*Secretary, Highland Hereford Breeders' Association.*

### SUGGESTION FOR BEEF POSTER

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., May 20, 1932.

TO THE PRODUCER:

I have a suggestion to make in the matter of advertising material which I wish to pass on to that organization which normally controls most of the national advertising of our meat products—the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

One of the meanest problems confronting the retailing of meat—a problem most vexing to the retailer—is that of getting rid of the poorer cuts. There is always confusion in the consumer's mind—the housewife's mind—as to what the different cuts should cost. Further, the consumer believes that the cheaper cuts are not worth buying. A big reason for this is that so few people know how to prepare the different cuts so that they will taste good.

I accordingly suggest that our advertising people have designed (and distributed throughout the meat-shops of the country) a poster which shall present the usual drawing of a side of beef, marked off into the customary well-known cuts, and presenting in addition something like the following:

- "1. The quality of meat varies with the quality and degree of finish (amount of fat) of the carcass.
  - "(a) A well-bred beef animal furnishes better meat than a dairy animal.
  - "(b) The fatter the meat, the tenderer and sweeter it is.
- "2. Given a well-fattened beef carcass, all the cuts are tasty and palatable, if properly cooked.
- "3. Where possible, select your cuts from carcasses that are graded and stamped by the federal government.
- "4. Federally stamped grades run as follows, the first being the best, the second next best, and so on: [Here give the list of federal grades.]
- "5. You should pay for your meat in proportion to its quality of grade and kind of cut.
- "6. If the price of the best cut is put at 100 per cent, then the various other cuts should be priced by your butcher at the following percentages:

"Porterhouse steak .....	100
"Sirloin steak .....	95
"Rib roast .....	95
"Round steak .....	80

[and so on]

- "7. Remember: All cuts are good if properly cooked.

"We give you below a chart of cuts, and opposite each cut the tastiest recipe for properly preparing it.

"GET THE KIND OF MEAT YOU ASK FOR.  
"GET THE KIND OF MEAT YOU PAY FOR."

W. WALTER NEGLEY.

### TAXES ON OLEOMARGARINE UNJUSTIFIABLE

MORGANTOWN, W. VA., May 20, 1932.

TO THE PRODUCER:

I have been reading with interest the items appearing in THE PRODUCER from time to time relative to oleomargarine, and especially the Kleberg bill. In the face of all the facts that have been established relative to the high

value of oleomargarine containing high percentages of animal fats, I do not see how anyone who is fair-minded can justify the existence of taxes levied against such oleomargarine.

I am inclosing a copy of a bulletin reporting some work done at this station comparing butter, oleomargarine, and nut margarine as a source of fat-soluble vitamins for growing pigs. You will note the very clear evidence that margarine produced by animal fats are equal to butter in Vitamins A and D.

J. H. LONGWELL,

*Professor of Animal Husbandry,  
West Virginia University.*

### FENCING ON NATIONAL FORESTS

MAGDALENA, N. M., May 31, 1932.

TO THE PRODUCER:

Fencing of the national-forest range by the Forest Service is causing large losses to many stockmen in New Mexico. I know of several cases where ranchers, who were the first to settle the country, have been fenced off and been compelled to move off their ranches.

A man who came to New Mexico thirty years ago, and could get into the cattle business and stay in it, has gone through some experience. In the first place, there were the droughts, which still come. Then there were the stock-killers. These he no more has to contend with. Now, after this man has spent a lifetime making this a place where he could spend his old age in peace, he has to see his range taken away from him and given to someone else; and he is given nothing in return.

To show what fencing a range does to a man who has no say in the matter, I will mention the case of two ranches on the same national forest, one of which has been fenced off to what the Forest Service figures is enough range, and the other where the range has not been fenced.

The first—the North Canyon Ranch—had 157 head (all cows) on a year-long permit. Calves branded in 1931 numbered 130, which were weaned in February, 1932, leaving nothing but the permitted stock on the range. From January 1 up to date, 30 cows have died, leaving 127. Feed used during the winter and spring was: corn, 2,000 pounds; alfalfa hay, 4 tons; cottonseed cake, 500 pounds; salt, 4,000 pounds.

The second—the Big Rosie Ranch—had a year-long permit for 200 head (cows and two-year-old heifers). Calves branded in 1931 numbered 130, which were not weaned, but are still with the cows under a short-season permit. Seven cows have died since the first of January, leaving 193. Feed used: corn, 500 pounds; alfalfa hay, 1 ton; salt, 5,000 pounds.

There was one man at each ranch during this period.

ED. BURRIS.

### LOW CONDITION OF WINTER WHEAT

INDICATIONS ON MAY 1 WERE FOR A YIELD OF 440,781,000 bushels of winter wheat, compared with a harvest of 787,465,000 bushels last year. Abandonment has been 16.6 per cent of the acreage sown last fall, against only 5 per cent in 1931. Spring wheat is likewise reported to be below average in some localities, leading the Department of Agriculture to estimate a combined production of winter and spring wheat of less than 700,000,000 bushels, which is a considerable drop from the 884,286,000 bushels harvested last year.

If these predictions come true, the effect should be a material advance in wheat prices.



# WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

## IN CONGRESS

**H**ECTIC EFFORTS AT BRINGING EQUILIBRIUM into government finances, in which President Hoover participated to the extent of appearing personally in the Senate chamber to put in an earnest plea for prompt action, have at last been crowned with success—provided, of course, the new sources of revenue come up to expectations. As this is being written, the House is debating the billion-dollar tax bill, on which agreement was reached in conference on June 3. Its speedy passage seems a foregone conclusion; after which we shall all have to pay a little more on our shrunk incomes, and on a multitude of things, besides, which enter into our daily lives; letter postage, bank checks, automobiles, gasoline, radios, phonographs, theater tickets, firearms, cosmetics, jewelry, matches, chewing-gum, candy, home brew, and a hundred other necessities. Copper, coal, oil, and lumber henceforth will have an import tariff attached to them.

Meanwhile the Senate has been wrestling with the so-called "economy bill," involving a saving estimated at about \$240,000,000, approximately half of which would be effected through an omnibus salary cut of 10 per cent for all federal employees earning more than \$1,000 a year.

Not unexpectedly, the President refused to approve the tariff bill passed by Congress last month, which would have transferred to the lawmaking branch of the government the power to raise or reduce import duties at the recommendation of the Tariff Commission, and which called for an international conference to consider the general lowering of trade barriers. "There never has been a time in the history of the United States when tariff protection was more essential to the welfare of the American people than at present," said Mr. Hoover in returning the bill. "It is imperative that the protective policy be maintained." He also asserted that the removal of executive authority practically destroyed the "flexible" tariff.

The House promptly tried to pass the bill over the President's veto, but fell short of the required two-thirds, the vote to override being 178, against 166 to sustain.

Unemployment relief legislation has been further complicated by the introduction of several new bills. One of these, presented by Speaker Garner, and having the unanimous support of the Democratic majority in the House, would make available the gigantic sum of \$2,309,000,000 for relief purposes. Of this, \$1,047,874,468 would be spent in a nationwide program of public construction, including several thousand new post-offices, to be financed by issuing bonds, which would be retired by a special gasoline tax of one-fourth cent a gallon; \$100,000,000 would go to a fund for direct relief of distress, to be administered by the President; and \$1,000,000,000 would be used for increasing the borrowing power of the

Reconstruction Finance Corporation to finance self-liquidating projects of cities, states, and private companies.

Against this measure, frowned upon by the administration, President Hoover has advanced another, introduced by Representative Hawley, of Oregon, which would double the borrowing power of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to \$3,000,000,000, to assist states with unemployment relief through loans, and to finance income-producing and self-sustaining construction enterprises by public and private bodies.

Other bills have been presented by Senators Robinson, of Arkansas; Costigan, of Colorado; and Wagner, of New York. Still another measure is fathered by Representative Black, of New York, for the creation of a committee for federal, state, and local co-operation in placing qualified unemployed persons on unoccupied farms.

\* \* \*

The bill introduced by Representative Steagall, of Alabama, for safeguarding bank deposits has been passed by the

## When Better Marketing Is Done Watch the Co-op!

On every farm and ranch in the country there are opportunities for saving money at this time in

### SELLING FINANCING or BUYING

live stock through co-operative agencies. Service is the motivating principle on which every co-operative marketing association operates which is a member of the great nation-wide organization offering this service. Details on application to

### NATIONAL LIVE STOCK MARKETING ASSOCIATION

228 North LaSalle Street

Chicago, Illinois



House. The measure would establish a guaranty fund of a billion dollars to pay off depositors of insolvent national banks.

\* \* \*

The Norbeck-Steagall bill, amending the Federal Farm Loan Act, liberalizing the loan operations of the federal intermediate credit banks, and broadening their rediscount rules, has been passed by Congress and signed by the President. The amendment authorizes intermediate credit banks to accept drafts drawn on them by co-operative marketing associations, and permits the rediscount by federal reserve banks of notes discounted by intermediate banks. This measure had the backing of farm organizations.

\* \* \*

The question what to do with the \$140,000,000 power plant at Muscle Shoals came one step nearer solution last month when a bill introduced by Representative Hill, of Alabama, was passed by the House, 183 to 132. The measure would set up a board of three members to lease the properties to private interests, if possible. Should no lessee be forthcoming within eighteen months, the government would take over the project and start the manufacture of fertilizer and nitrogen, at an estimated initial expense of \$100,000,000.

\* \* \*

The appropriation of \$1,450,000 to fight the threatened repetition of last year's grasshopper plague has been rejected in the House. Under the resolution, the federal government would have bought poison to eradicate the grasshoppers as they hatched.

### FEDERAL FARM BOARD

**R**ESPONDING TO ATTACKS BY PETER B. CAREY, president of the Chicago Board of Trade, on the method of disposing of the stocks held by the Grain Stabilization Corporation, James C. Stone, chairman of the Federal Farm Board, states that liquidation "under the plan announced June 30, 1931, has proceeded in such a manner that American wheat prices have been maintained at substantially 5 to 15 cents a bushel higher than world-market price parity, in the face of the most trying marketing conditions known to any living man."

\* \* \*

One-half of the 1,300,000 bales of cotton held by the Cotton Stabilization Corporation will be placed on the market beginning August 1, the Farm Board announces; adding that every effort will be made "to distribute sales throughout the season without disturbance to price-levels."

\* \* \*

Continuation of the government's price-stabilization operations in wheat and cotton is aimed at in a bill presented in Congress by Senator Smith, of South Carolina. The measure provides for an amount of \$250,000,000 to be turned over by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to the Secretary of Agriculture for purchase of the two commodities in the open market, the wheat to be held at the secretary's discretion, but the cotton to be contingent on acreage reduction.

\* \* \*

An additional 40,000,000 bushels of Stabilization Corporation wheat would be distributed for relief purposes under a bill introduced by Senator McNary, of Oregon. Of the 40,000,000 bushels previously made available, 23,000,000 bushels have so far been distributed—about one-half of it for live-stock feed.

\* \* \*

Withdrawal of the Pacific Co-operative Wool Growers' Association from membership in the National Wool Market-

ing Corporation has been announced. The wool crop of the association in the future will be disposed of through the Kincaid-Kimball Company of Boston.

\* \* \*

J. Byron Wilson, of McKinley, Wyoming, has resigned as general manager of the National Wool Marketing Corporation—a position he has held since the organization of that body—and will henceforth act as its western representative, spending most of his time in the field. His place as manager will be taken by Harry H. Embach, of Phoenix, Arizona.

\* \* \*

On May 23, President Hoover sent to the Senate the name of C. B. Denman, of Missouri, for reappointment as member of the Farm Board, for a term of six years. Mr. Denman represents the live-stock interests.

### NEW PUBLIC-LAND BILL

**C**ONGRESS HAS BEEN SO BUSY WITH THE VARIOUS relief, economy, and taxation measures, all of which are by no means disposed of yet, that the chances of any public-domain legislation being considered during the present session appear to be slim. The administration bill, so called, introduced in the House by Representative Evans, of Montana, and in the Senate by Senator Nye, of North Dakota, and which embodied the recommendations of the Garfield committee, has been sidetracked. So much opposition developed to some of its features that it soon became clear that it would have to be materially modified. Unfortunately, there is far from agreement in the West as to just what is wanted. Conditions differ so much that what is suitable for one state does not fit the situation in another.

To meet the objections raised by the Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, and the Bureau of the Budget, and at the same time to accede to the wishes of such states as are urging the passage of individual bills to fit their particular circumstances, Representative Colton, of Utah, who was chairman of the Public Lands Committee of the House until the beginning of the present session, has framed a new bill (H.R. 11816), somewhat similar, in its general terms, to the original measure introduced by him (H.R. 4541).

This bill provides that grazing districts may be established by the Secretary of the Interior on non-timbered public lands, valuable chiefly for grazing and forage crops. Ten-year, renewable leases would be granted to individuals, groups, or associations for the grazing of live stock under rules prescribed by the secretary, on the payment of reasonable fees as determined by him. Use of grazing lands without a permit would be punishable by a fine of \$500 or imprisonment for one year. Holders of permits may provide water, fencing, or other improvements, to be compensated for if used by other permittees.

Administration of established grazing districts would be under the immediate direction of the local branches of the General Land Office. On recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior, the President of the United States may add any public lands to the national forests, and, on recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture, may transfer grazing lands now within national-forest boundaries to grazing districts.

Of the fees assessed, 10 per cent would be used for range improvements, 25 per cent would go to the states for road and school purposes, and the remainder would be paid into the federal treasury. There would be no change in the present situation with regard to prospecting and developing mining claims.

# OUR TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

## TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

BY CHARLES E. BLAINE

*Traffic Counsel, American National Live Stock Association*

### Supreme Court Reverses Circuit Court of Appeals in Reparations Case

IN AN OPINION DELIVERED BY JUSTICE BRANDEIS, the Supreme Court of the United States on May 23 reversed the judgment of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in Docket No. 581, and remanded the proceedings, with direction to enter judgment for the amount of reparation awarded, with interest, and for reasonable attorneys' fees.

The history of matters involved is this: The Union Stock Yards and Transit Company was organized in 1865 by the railroads then entering Chicago. Until 1894 its shares were largely held by those railroads. The company constructed stock-yards, and tracks connecting with those of the line-haul carriers. After 1897 the company's railroad property was operated under lease by the Chicago Junction Railway Company, which received from the line-haul carriers compensation for the use of its tracks. The line-haul carriers, using their own locomotives and crews, brought all inbound carload shipments of live stock to the unloading chutes of the Stock Yards Company, and collected from the shippers a terminal or switching charge of \$2 per car, in addition to the line-haul rates. The imposition of the \$2 charge was the subject of much litigation before the Interstate Commerce Commission and the courts.

Prior to December 9, 1912, the unloading charges of the company had not been contained in any tariff filed with the commission. On the above date the company filed its Tariff No. 1, effective May 30, 1913, stating its charge to be 25 cents a car for unloading live stock. That tariff remained in effect until the company filed its Tariff No. 2, to become effective May 21, 1917, which imposed an unloading charge of 50 cents per car.

The line-haul railroads did not join in the company's Tariff No. 2, or authorize it. They did not file new tariffs embodying the extra 25-cent charge. They refused to absorb the extra charge. Upon such refusal, the company, in order to compel payment by the carriers, adopted the practice of withholding the sum demanded from the freight charges collected for them. In retaliation, the carriers threatened to collect those charges for themselves. The result of this controversy was an arrangement arrived at by the railroads and the company whereby the former added the disputed charge to their freight bills and the latter collected it from the shippers, despite their protest. As theretofore, the whole amount collected was turned over by the company to the railroads.

Meanwhile, the company, contending that, because of certain changes made in its relation with the Chicago Junction Railway, it was no longer a common carrier of interstate commerce, filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission a

supplement to its tariffs, effective September 1, 1917, in which it undertook to cancel all its tariffs. The proposed supplement was suspended by the commission, and, before any decision had been reached, the Chicago Live Stock Exchange filed its complaint against the company and the line-haul railroads, challenging the extra 25-cent charge.

The proceedings were consolidated. Soon thereafter the railroads passed under federal control, and the Director General, who continued the arrangement instituted by the carriers with the company, became a party to the proceedings before the commission. That arrangement continued to the end of federal control (February 29, 1920).

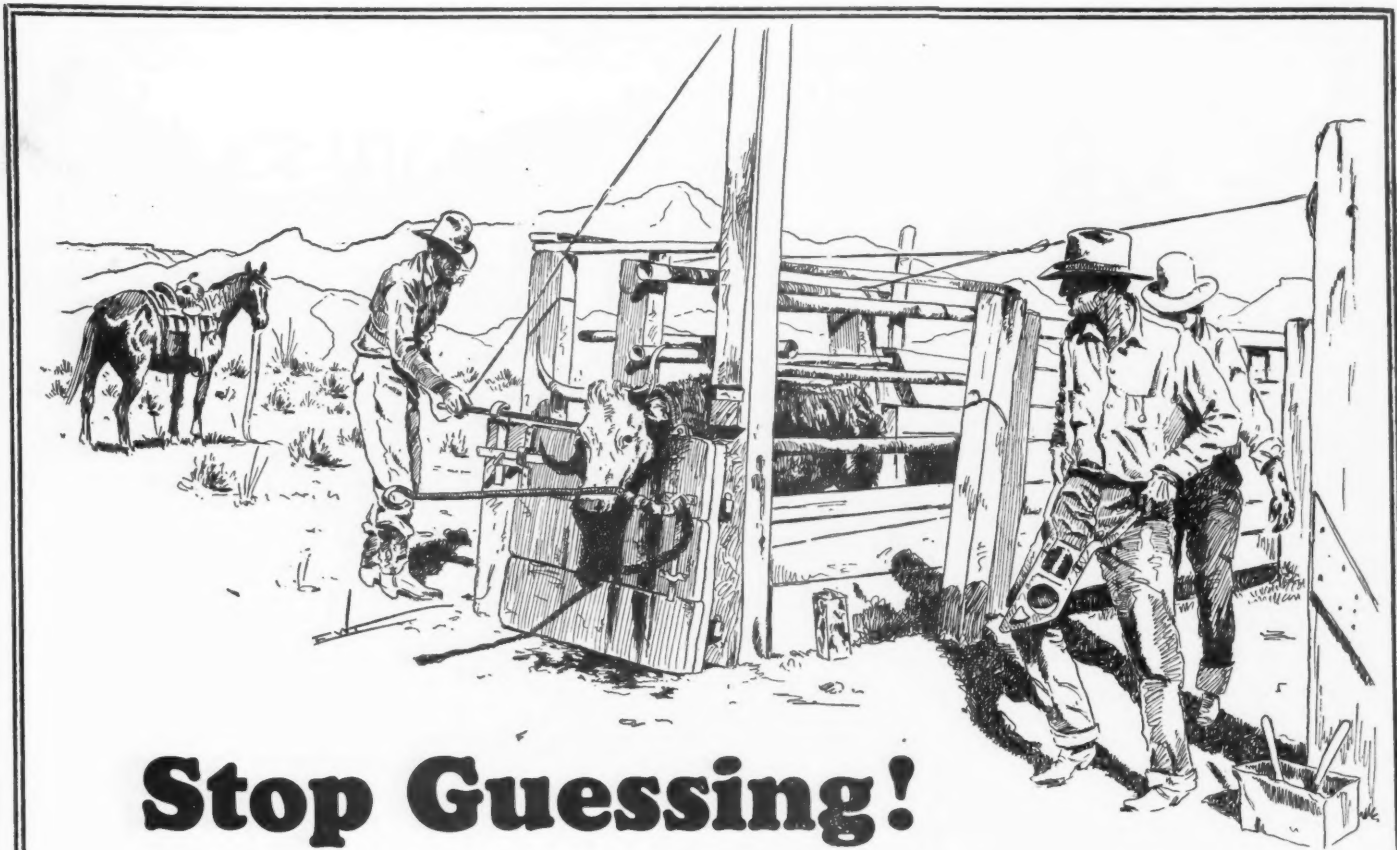
Thus, by the unbroken usage of fifty years, the payment by shippers of live stock of the line-haul rate to Chicago, plus the terminal charge of \$2, had covered all the service performed in connection with the shipment up to and including the placing of the stock in the pens of the commission men. The commission so found, and the court, as stated by it, has heretofore so recognized.

Following the decision of the commission, the defendants refused to pay the reparation awarded by the commission. Whereupon, on December 19, 1928, the commission men—103 in number, members of the Chicago Live Stock Exchange—brought an action in the federal court for northern Illinois to enforce the order of the commission for reparation in the sum of \$140,001.25 and interest, covering the extra charge of 25 cents a car for unloading live stock at the yards for about 174,000 different shippers, during the period December 18, 1917, to February 29, 1920.

The case was tried in the District Court before a jury upon the evidence introduced before the commission. At the close of evidence, each defendant moved for a directed verdict. The district judge granted the motions on the ground that the plaintiffs (commission men) had no such interest in the claims for reparation as would entitle them to maintain action under the Interstate Commerce Act. The Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the judgment, but, not being entirely satisfied that the reason assigned by the District Court was correct, rested its decision on the ground that the exaction of the extra 25-cent charge was a lawful practice. Upon petition by the commission men, the United States Supreme Court granted a writ of certiorari.

In its opinion, the court found that the railroads' argument was unsound. It further found that the plaintiffs (commission men) were the consignees of the shipments, and entitled to possession of them upon payment of the lawful charges. If the defendants exacted from them an unlawful charge, the exaction was a tort, for which the plaintiffs were entitled to compensation from the wrongdoer. Acceptance of the shipments would have rendered the commission men personally liable to the carriers, if the merchandise had been delivered without payment of the full amount of charges lawfully due. The court held that, as the commission men would have been liable for an undercharge, they may recover for





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an overcharge. Consequently, the court reversed the courts below and remanded the proceeding to the District Court, with direction to enter judgment for \$140,001.25, with interest, and for reasonable attorneys' fees to be fixed by it.

Thus it is the established law of the land that commission merchants are factors for the shippers, and that it is not only their right, but their duty, to resist illegal exaction.

It is assumed that the commission men will reimburse the individual shippers for the amounts originally deducted from the account sales, less, of course, the proportionate expense incurred by the commission men in fighting the case through the commission. It is advisable that shippers take this matter up with the commission men who handled their shipments during the period December 19, 1917, to February 29, 1920.

#### Supreme Court Sustains Texas Motor-Vehicle Law

The Supreme Court of the United States, on appeal from the District Court for the Southern District of Texas, in an opinion delivered by Chief Justice Hughes, on May 23 held that the states have the power to fix the net load weight of motor trucks. It further held that the motor vehicle law of the State of Texas, limiting the size of vehicles and containing other regulatory provisions, is constitutional.

#### Proceedings before Interstate Commerce Commission

Division into separate state-wide proceedings has been made by the Interstate Commerce Commission of its investigation into the refusal of eleven state railroad commissions to allow intrastate freight-rate increases corresponding to those granted by the commission on interstate traffic.

Request has been made by the Union Pacific System for permission to consolidate its various units.

#### PACKERS DENIED REHEARING

**F**OLLOWING THE DECISION OF THE UNITED States Supreme Court in the Packers' Consent Decree case, as announced in the May PRODUCER, a petition for rehearing was filed by attorneys for Swift & Co. and Armour & Co. The petition asserted that there was no proof in the record to substantiate the court's statement that the packers in the past had utilized their size for the purpose of putting competitors out of business, or that they had the power to do so. There was a vast difference, it was claimed, between a reference to charges in the bill of complaint for such a purpose, and assumption of the truth of the charges with the object of branding defendants as lawbreakers who, on the basis of past misconduct, could not now be safely intrusted with the privilege of trading in groceries.

The petition was denied.

#### NO NEW OUTBREAKS OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH

**N**O NEW CASES OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE have been reported from California since the May issue of THE PRODUCER appeared. The type of virus responsible for the outbreak seems to have been of low virulence, according to Dr. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry. So far only swine have been affected, although a number of other animals have been exposed. Several cattle used in inoculation tests failed to develop lesions.

A total of 18,747 hogs, 24 goats, and 46 cattle have been slaughtered and buried. The infected premises have been cleaned and disinfected, and restocking will commence on June 15. Thus far the source of the outbreak has not been traced.

## THE MARKETS

### LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN MAY

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., June 1, 1932.

**E**VERY BRANCH OF THE LIVE-STOCK MARKET reflects restricted purchasing power. Any improvement must come from the distributive end of the trade. Especially at the Atlantic seaboard, meat trade has constantly encountered adversity. What the trade knows as the "drop" (meaning that portion of the animal that goes on the floor during processing), hides, blood—everything, in fact, but the meat—has little present value. Both hides and wool are selling, when disposal is possible, at the lowest prices in many years, with a constant tendency to accumulate on slaughterers' hands. Heretofore, during periods of economic semi-paralysis, distributive conditions have been different. Meat consumption is handicapped, not only by relatively high prices and lack of purchasing power, but by excessive distribution cost, for which responsibility rests with the readjustment process rather than with trade groups or individuals. Disappearance, to a large extent, of by-product values has been a major cause of the debacle.

#### Cattle Holding up Better Than Sheep or Hogs

Cattle trade has been equal to the most creditable performance during this uncertain period. At Chicago, as elsewhere, the market has fluctuated within a narrow range, meanwhile discrediting prediction that average cost was about to drop to the swine level. While hog cost has flirted with the \$3 mark, that of cattle has been above \$6. The top cattle price, ranging from \$7 to \$8, according to the type of steers available on any single session, has furnished a false barometer of actual conditions, as it invariably indicated a few outstanding loads of bullocks, the rank and file of feeders being more interested in the level at which their product could be sold. During May the proportion of \$5.25 to \$6.50 steers and mixed yearlings was large;

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with cells and coil in protected case; pole 3½ feet plus 4-foot outside cable give long reach; handy current control; strong contact points; sturdily made; well insulated; best electrical materials. Ideal, humane tool for handling herds of cattle around stockyards, chutes, loading pens, dipping vats. Shipping weight, 23 pounds; allow extra for parcel post.

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that of finished steers of all weights, unseasonably light. While there was no surplus of cattle at the markets, and congestion of the acute type rarely appeared, constant selling pressure was exerted; any improvement in prices, frequently in evidence, being attributed to light runs in response to breaks and clean-up reports from the beef market.

#### Killers' Policy to Clear Coolers

Naturally killers have been averse to accumulating beef in the cooler, the stated policy being to clear the hang-rail at the week-end, if possible; the former practice by distributors of leaving carcasses on the sold-rail for considerable periods having been definitely abandoned. New selling conditions have eliminated the meat speculator, who in other days could be depended upon to take on a jag of meat during week-end bargain sales; most of these operators having gone "broke," the few able to hold their ground having private capital, as bankers are no longer in a position to furnish this. To aggravate matters, collections have been slow. In fact, every element that enters into the price-making function has been adverse.

#### Changed Conditions Compelling Trade Innovations

Within the precincts of the cattle market changed times have necessitated trading innovations, augmenting responsibilities of both salesmen and buyers. Increasing volume of truck deliveries at the markets have increased the volume of odd-lot and part-load trading. Order-buyers, who formerly acquired straight loads, leaving the assembling job to a middleman, have been forced to purchase "pieces"—meaning a few head, and even single animals. Discrimination on the part of buyers has increased the percentage of "outs," incidentally expanding the list of "drafts" going over the scales. The stock-yard speculator, or trader—for many years a target of criticism by pseudo-economists—has all but disappeared, owing to stress of circumstances, either his capital being dissipated or his financial backers refusing to continue responsibility for meeting his daily purchase obligations. The matter of credit has never received more serious consideration in every branch of the market, commission men being responsible for remittance of sale proceeds to shippers, regardless of collections. Never before

has the financial integrity and solvency of the market agency been so fully realized.

#### Competition Still in Evidence

May cattle trade may be epitomized as fairly satisfactory, with advances and reactions of 25 to 50 cents per cwt. from day to day. It has been a feverish period, killers endeavoring to save a little money in their purchases by applying constant pressure. Every advance brought in a "run;" every 50-cent decline checked the movement. At times the machinery used in estimating the next day's receipts has literally broken down, for which trucking has been mainly responsible. That cattle trade has underlying strength, however, is indicated by prompt recoveries on light runs. In other branches of the market, competition has been deficient. Much of the time that factor was active in cattle trade.

#### Tops Selling below \$8

At the mid-month low spot, semi-demoralized conditions developed. Subsequent recovery restored a measure of confidence. At the bottom, \$7.25 stopped anything wearing a hide, the top reverting to \$7.85; a generous proportion of the steer supply worth \$5 to \$6 at the low point gaining 75 cents per cwt. In fact, steers realizing \$6.90 late in the month would have been well sold at \$6 during the dark hour when fear existed that cattle were going on a parity with hogs.

#### Heifers Show Sharp Decline

Heifers sold sharply lower during the month, finishing on a \$5 to \$5.75 basis, with a \$6 limit. Demand for tonnage gave the heavy heifer an advantage, thus reversing conditions in recent years. Demand for cheap beef worked to the advantage of low-grade heifers and cows—a condition reflecting by-product prices. A large proportion of the beef-cow supply sold at \$3.25 to \$4.50; light southern canners, as low as \$1.25.

#### Hogs Lowest in Half a Century

Hogs sold at the lowest prices in many years, variously estimated at four to five decades. Back in 1883, Chicago packers contracted for a winter supply of hogs on a \$3 per cwt. basis; during May drove cost at western markets went below that figure, and at Chicago was only a few cents above it at the close of the month. At least one packer made futile efforts to support the market around a \$3.25 average cost, but was unequal to the task. Supply was constantly heavy, carrying a large proportion of trash that merely aggravated the situation. The entire packing-sow crop sold below \$2.75 late in the month; thin sows, as low as \$2. For some reason or other, Chicago was the high market on the map—a condition that did not attract volume, as market receipts, with direct-to-packer stuff deducted, were small. Unprecedented was refusal by some shippers to take advantage of the corn fill at the market, cost of corn and price of hogs being out of line.

#### Lambs in Violent Slump

A terrific slump in lambs during the third week of May featured trade in the sheep-house. It came out of a clear sky, as that branch of the trade had charted an independent course previously. The crash was precipitated by a slump in eastern dressed-lamb prices, heavy receipts of "directs" at Chicago from Denver and California, and disappearance of pelt values. In the list of things unprecedented was elimination of "credits" to buyers for offal and wool. In fact, shorn lambs outsold the wool type on several occasions. In two weeks old-crop lambs declined \$2

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per cwt.; in less than sixty days, \$3 per cwt., or from \$8 to \$5, and in some instances more. Fortunately only a small percentage of the Colorado output was involved, but the season's tail end showed serious depreciation. Subsequent to the debacle, the lamb market staged a 50-cent "come-back." At the end of May, spring, or new-crop, lambs were on a \$6 to \$6.25 basis, and fairly active, but with no certainty as to the future course of prices. Fat sheep, or ewes, at \$1 to \$2 per cwt. were on the lowest basis in many years.

### MONEY TIGHTNESS RESTRICTING FEEDER PURCHASE

J. E. P.

**A** LIMITED MOVEMENT OF STOCK AND FEEDING cattle through market centers to pastures and feed-lots is due more to monetary conditions than to lack of demand. If cattle-purchase money was available, investment would be substantially increased. Country banks give feeders little encouragement, metropolitan banks are primarily concerned in conserving cash resources in anticipation of depositor demands, and few commission men are now in a position to take care of their customers' needs.

Popular prices of light steers are found within a range of \$4.25 to \$4.50. Cheap light steers are selling as low as \$3.75, and fleshy feeders of the two-way type anywhere from \$5 to \$5.90, according to quality and condition. The narrow spread between these cattle and the general run of steers going to killers is obvious, suggesting that purchasers have confidence in the future.

Practically all the good southwestern pastures were filled, but the proportion of aged steers was the smallest in many years, promising a supply of feeders from that quarter next fall. The Northwest is enjoying improved physical conditions, and, with a grass crop, will load a lot of light cattle, probably late in the season. Meanwhile replacement will be light.

Corn prospects were never better at this season. The acreage is large, and, should nature favor the crop, there will be feed in abundance, requiring live stock to convert it. Despite the slump in fat-cattle prices, feeding has furnished a cash outlet for vast quantities of grain and roughage that would otherwise have had little, if any, value. If the Corn Belt is to carry on, it must have cattle, and there is but one certain source of replacement—pastures west of the Missouri River. The financial situation is draining the country east of the Missouri River of common light steers, farmers utilizing anything wearing a hide.

If present conditions continue, there will be a demand next fall for low-grade steers to go into the feed-lot, as the problem of many feeders will be to make their money go as far as possible. Such cattle acquired on the break last fall have paid well for their board, and in many instances made substantial profit.

Lacking purchase-money loans, feeders will naturally seek contract affiliations with western growers. Feeding done on that basis last winter was fairly satisfactory in many instances, but no standards have yet been set up. To acquire a reasonable degree of permanency and stability, these contracts must be bilateral in fact, which is obviously impossible when the owner agrees to pay the feeder a stated price for the gain. But one certainty exists, and that is that the Corn Belt must acquire cattle; otherwise its agrarian welfare will be impossible. The swine-market collapse has been little short of a tragedy. Formerly pork

made in the wake of a steer insured at least an even break, hogs frequently pulling cattle-feeders out of a financial hole; but this main reliance of the farmer has failed him in one of the direst emergencies of the present age. Cattle and hogs have always been a logical combination. The new situation has not changed this basic principle, nor is it likely to for some time to come.

### LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

**A**PPENDED ARE TABLES SHOWING RECEIPTS, shipments, and slaughter of live stock at sixty-three markets for the month of April, 1932, compared with April, 1931, and for the four months ending April, 1932 and 1931:

#### RECEIPTS

	April		Four Months Ending April	
	1932	1931	1932	1931
Cattle*.....	897,193	1,056,880	3,622,646	3,992,535
Calves.....	478,381	559,667	1,787,878	1,969,892
Hogs.....	2,960,259	3,067,239	13,775,853	14,630,100
Sheep.....	2,411,798	2,712,837	8,925,098	8,971,271

#### TOTAL SHIPMENTS†

	April		Four Months Ending April	
	1932	1931	1932	1931
Cattle*.....	357,370	430,773	1,383,270	1,646,593
Calves.....	138,974	149,984	502,743	573,506
Hogs.....	941,260	1,088,458	4,610,334	5,478,867
Sheep.....	1,154,902	1,304,228	3,863,161	4,140,212

#### STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

	April		Four Months Ending April	
	1932	1931	1932	1931
Cattle*.....	115,544	155,854	426,702	600,399
Calves.....	22,341	18,864	76,428	89,418
Hogs.....	28,402	35,956	130,619	148,212
Sheep.....	143,182	188,603	424,428	580,784

#### LOCAL SLAUGHTER

	April		Four Months Ending April	
	1932	1931	1932	1931
Cattle*.....	540,175	628,485	2,206,791	2,313,569
Calves.....	338,701	407,773	1,276,355	1,393,486
Hogs.....	2,023,670	1,982,789	9,160,759	9,145,084
Sheep.....	1,269,389	1,328,043	5,067,167	4,720,770

\*Exclusive of calves.

†Including stockers and feeders.

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## NO IMMEDIATE DANGER OF A BEEF SCARCITY

J. E. P.

**O**PINION AS TO CONTINUANCE OF THE MARKET-ward movement of fed cattle varies according to the locality furnishing the information. Some sections are well supplied; others, closely shipped out. There has been little or no incentive to put on weight; consequently beef-making areas responsible for filling the markets with overdone cattle during the summer period for two years past will not repeat that performance. However, there will be enough beef to go around. Measured by what consumers pay, beef is high, compared with pork, and lamb is now out of the list of costly foods.

Hide-market conditions have an intimate relationship to cattle, constituting the major part of the by-product. While shoe production is on a more prosperous basis than other industries, demand for leather is seriously restricted, and, at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound, hides do not put a prop under cattle prices, and there is scant prospect of a substantial increase in hide prices. Tallow and other by-products are not only at the lowest levels in many years, but show no underlying strength.

Scarcity of southern grass cattle this year was an element of strength, but sooner or later beef supply will receive a substantial accession from that quarter. The North-

west will be late, and will probably "bunch" its season's gathering.

Low prices have a confirmed habit of curtailing production. On the other hand, the immediate result is liquidation. The case of horses is in point. For ten years the country has been unloading equine stock, meanwhile restricting breeding, on the theory that farm mechanization had come to stay. The result is that a good farm or medium-grade horse is realizing as much money as in 1929, while everything else sold by the farmer has depreciated sharply. Apply this analogy to cattle, and a practically infallible prediction is possible. Present economic conditions will necessitate selling cattle for revenue-raising purposes as rapidly as possible for one, two, and possibly three years, so that, when actual deficiency materializes, it will be serious.

For the immediate future there need be no concern about beef supply. Between fed cattle and grassers, there will be plenty of beef. What may happen is a deficiency of the better types and a wide spread in prices as the season advances.

## COMPARATIVE LIVE-STOCK PRICES

**B**ELOW ARE FIGURES SHOWING PRICES ON THE principal classes and grades of live stock at Chicago on June 1, 1932, compared with May 2, 1932, and June 1, 1931 (per 100 pounds):

	June 1, 1932	May 2, 1932	June 1, 1931
<b>SLAUGHTER STEERS:</b>			
Choice (1,100 to 1,500 lbs.)	\$ 7.00- 7.75	\$ 7.25- 8.00	\$ 7.25- 8.00
Good	6.00- 7.25	6.50- 7.25	6.25- 7.50
Choice (900 to 1,100 lbs.)	7.00- 7.75	7.25- 7.75	7.50- 8.00
Good	6.00- 7.25	6.50- 7.25	6.75- 7.50
Medium (800 lbs. up)	5.25- 6.25	5.50- 6.50	6.00- 7.25
<b>FED YEARLING STEERS:</b>			
Good to Choice	5.85- 7.50	6.50- 7.75	6.75- 8.00
<b>HEIFERS:</b>			
Good to Choice	5.00- 6.00	5.25- 6.50	6.25- 7.50
<b>COWS:</b>			
Good to Choice	3.75- 4.75	3.50- 4.75	4.00- 5.00
<b>CALVES:</b>			
Good to Choice	4.00- 5.00	3.50- 4.50	
<b>FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS:</b>			
Good to Choice	4.75- 6.00	5.00- 6.25	6.00- 7.00
Common to Medium	3.75- 4.75	3.75- 5.00	4.75- 6.00
<b>HOGS:</b>			
Medium Weights (200 to 250 lbs.)	3.30- 3.55	3.55- 3.90	5.90- 6.15
<b>LAMBS:</b>			
Medium to Choice (92 lbs. down)	5.25- 6.75	4.75- 6.25	8.00-10.50
<b>EWES:</b>			
Medium to Choice	1.75- 2.25	1.00- 2.25	

## HAS WOOL REACHED BOTTOM?

J. E. P.

**W**OOL-TRADERS ARE OF THE OPINION THAT when Congress adjourns one of the major obstacles to the market will disappear. Meanwhile actual weekly trade is of limited volume. Some wool is moving from interior points at low prices, but there is nothing to indicate possible price trends. Assertion that the market is steady suggests that the irreducible minimum of prices has been reached. Back in 1894, Wyoming wools sold at 6 to 8 cents per pound under free-trade conditions. At present, with a tariff of 34 cents a pound, clean content, the commodity is realizing little more than in the middle nineties.

Good twelve-month Texas wools are costing around 30 cents, clean, or 4 cents less than the tariff, while medium wools, quarters and three-eighths, are selling at 22 to 23 cents, clean, or 11 to 12 cents under the tariff for such wools. The answer is that prices are low enough.

Herd Bulls
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It is considered merely a matter of time when order will evolve from present chaotic conditions. At present no definite trend exists.

### WHOLESALE MEAT PRICES

**W**HOLESALE PRICES ON WESTERN DRESSED meats at Chicago on June 1, 1932, compared with May 2, 1932, and June 1, 1931, were as below (per 100 pounds):

#### FRESH BEEF AND VEAL

STEERS (700 lbs. up):	June 1, 1932	May 2, 1932	June 1, 1931
Choice	\$10.00-12.00	\$12.00-14.00	\$11.50-13.00
Good	9.00-10.00	10.50-12.00	11.00-11.50
STEERS (550 to 700 lbs.):			
Choice	10.50-12.50	11.00-13.00	12.00-13.00
Good	9.50-10.50	10.50-11.50	11.00-12.00
YEARLING STEERS:			
Choice	10.50-12.50	11.00-13.50	12.00-13.50
Good	9.50-10.50	10.50-11.50	11.00-12.00
COWS:			
Good	8.50- 9.50	8.50-10.00	9.00-10.00
VEALERS:			
Choice	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	13.00-14.00
Good	7.00- 9.00	8.00- 9.00	12.00-13.00

#### FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON

LAMBS (45 lbs. down):			
Choice	\$14.00-15.00	\$13.00-14.00	\$21.00-23.00
Good	12.00-14.00	12.50-13.50	18.00-21.00
EWES:			
Good	5.00- 7.00	6.00- 8.00	7.00- 9.00

#### FRESH PORK CUTS

LOINS:			
8-12 lbs. average	\$ 9.00-10.50	\$ 9.00-10.50	\$15.00-18.00

### HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

**B**ELOW IS A SUMMARY OF STORAGE HOLDINGS of frozen and cured meats, lard, creamery butter, and eggs on May 1, 1932, as compared with May 1, 1931, and average holdings on that date for the past five years (in pounds):

Commodity	May 1, 1932	May 1, 1931	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef.....	26,820,000	34,132,000	42,152,000
Cured beef*.....	14,372,000	19,002,000	20,569,000
Lamb and mutton.....	1,039,000	2,527,000	2,788,000
Frozen pork.....	239,745,000	265,876,000	250,570,000
Dry salt pork*.....	126,857,000	148,179,000	149,434,000
Pickled pork*.....	430,260,000	453,500,000	446,730,000
Miscellaneous.....	60,017,000	81,338,000	76,451,000
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>899,110,000</b>	<b>1,004,564,000</b>	<b>988,694,000</b>
Lard.....	110,724,000	95,693,000	131,609,000
Butter.....	10,350,000	17,195,000	10,916,000
Eggs (cases).....	2,980,000	5,162,000	4,976,000
Frozen eggs (cases).....	2,342,000	2,615,000	1,849,000

\*Cured or in process of cure.

### FEEDSTUFFS

**O**N JUNE 1, HAY PRICES AT KANSAS CITY WERE as follows: Alfalfa—No. 1 extra leafy, \$12 to \$13; No. 2 extra leafy, \$10.50 to \$11.50; No. 1, \$9.50 to \$10; No. 2 leafy, \$9 to \$9.50; No. 2, \$8.50 to \$9; No. 3 leafy, \$8 to \$8.50; No. 3, \$6.50 to \$8; sample, \$5 to \$6.50; prairie—No. 1, \$9 to \$10; No. 2, \$7.50 to \$8.50; No. 3, \$6.50 to \$7.50; sample, \$4 to \$6; timothy—No. 1, \$9 to \$10; No. 2, \$7.50 to \$8.50; No. 3, \$6 to \$7; sample, \$5 to \$5.50; timothy-clover, mixed—No. 1, \$9 to \$9.50; No. 2, \$7.50 to \$8.50; No. 3, \$5 to \$7; clover—No. 1, \$10 to \$11; No. 2, \$7 to \$9.50.

## TRADE REVIEW

### FOREIGN TRADE IN APRIL

**P**RELIMINARY FIGURES FOR APRIL SHOW A further decline in the value of our foreign trade, which for both exports and imports descended to the lowest level in many years. In the below table are given exports, imports, and balance in favor of the United States for the month of April and the four months ending April, 1932 and 1931:

	April		Four Months Ending April	
	1932	1931	1932	1931
Exports.....	\$136,000,000	\$215,077,000	\$595,168,000	\$924,920,000
Imports.....	127,000,000	185,706,000	524,508,000	754,025,000
Excess of exports.	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 29,371,000	\$ 70,660,000	\$170,895,000

### EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS

**E**XPORTS OF MEAT, MEAT PRODUCTS, AND ANIMAL fats from the United States for the month of April and the four months ending April, 1932 and 1931, were as below (in pounds):

#### BEEF PRODUCTS

	April		Four Months Ending April	
	1932	1931	1932	1931
Beef, fresh.....	79,069	149,000	579,916	877,778
Beef, pickled.....	768,417	700,107	3,028,912	2,883,387
Beef, canned.....	78,526	132,242	313,336	430,539
Oleo oil.....	3,407,385	4,800,097	14,793,163	17,367,584
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>4,333,397</b>	<b>5,781,446</b>	<b>18,715,327</b>	<b>21,659,288</b>

#### PORK PRODUCTS

	April		Four Months Ending April	
	1932	1931	1932	1931
Pork, fresh.....	648,687	366,826	2,799,287	3,560,471
Pork, pickled.....	1,185,608	1,123,652	5,223,811	5,913,506
Bacon.....	1,316,455	2,916,884	5,412,477	16,947,023
Cumberland sides.....	69,704	126,573	187,410	602,851
Hams and shoulders.....	5,458,643	8,085,935	17,248,309	27,748,496
Sausage, canned.....	61,991	97,836	440,585	414,152
Lard.....	36,014,135	44,769,449	205,742,900	240,805,083
Lard compounds.....	101,989	165,426	323,613	522,039
Neutral lard.....	597,452	835,716	2,271,274	3,603,238
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>45,454,664</b>	<b>58,488,297</b>	<b>239,649,666</b>	<b>300,116,859</b>

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# FOREIGN

## LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA

BY A. C. MILLS

MELBOURNE, April 15, 1932.

**T**HE CONTINUED DRY WEATHER BEING EXPERIENCED over the northern pastoral areas is emphasizing the importance of controlling the increase and spread of natural fauna, such as kangaroos and emus. The toll of feed taken by these in good seasons is not so noticeable, but when it comes to a dry spell, kangaroos in particular make an appreciable difference to the quantity of grass available for stock. For instance, only the other day a report came through from Winton, in northwestern Queensland, to the effect that kangaroos had appeared there in great numbers. The district had just received some scattered storms, and, immediately any herbage sprang up, the animals were crowding on it, to the detriment of cattle. In one paddock five miles in extent over 2,000 were seen, and there were almost as many on other isolated patches of feed.

In the good old days before the war, shooting kangaroos for their skins was considered a fairly profitable occupation for a single man; but skin values have dropped and freights increased to such an extent that the game is now not worth while. This leaves the problem of control in the hands of graziers, and, though it adds to their work and expense, the pest is fairly easily dealt with in plain country, where the water supply is restricted to tanks and dams. The usual procedure is to clear all stock out of the paddocks about to be worked, and, after emptying the water-troughs, or fencing off the dams, place poisoned water in shallow receptacles adjacent to the usual drinking-places.

The poison is made by mixing two pounds of arsenic to one pound of washing-soda, and boiling for forty minutes in two gallons of water. This makes sufficient to poison sixty gallons, and it is stated that, if the 'roos are thick, as many as ten can be poisoned with a gallon of the solution. A landholder living in the north of Western Australia recently stated that in two nights he had cleaned up and stacked 327 kangaroos at one windmill by using the above poison. He had poison water placed at no less than ten mills on his particular run, and, with the aid of six men, was killing on an average 400 a night. Over 3,000 had actually been stacked and burned at the date of writing, but, in addition, it was probable that another 1,000 at least had died out of the radius over which the men were working.

Emus do not rob stock of feed to the same extent as kangaroos, but can become almost as great a pest in their own little ways. For one thing, they are apt, when startled, to rush wildly into fences, and, if really alarmed and going well, will crash through the strongest erections, which kangaroos would simply hop over without damaging. They also appear to have an antipathy to lambs; for, if feeding in a lambing paddock, they are often seen to kick out at them, with fatal results to the lambs. For these reasons, graziers have no compunction in breaking every egg they see and losing no chance to shoot the birds.

In addition to seasonal and other troubles, cattlemen in the north are facing an indifferent market. The price which the north Queensland meat-works propose to pay for fats has not been announced, but rumor says it is not likely to be more

than \$3.12 per 100 pounds, dressed weight, for cattle suitable for the frozen-beef export trade. The prospect of such a low price is naturally depressing the value of all young stuff in the breeding areas. Some growers in the west of Queensland have lately been trying to sell mobs of store bullocks of good quality and ages at \$12 a head, without attracting any interest; but there would probably be a demand if the weather broke before the winter sets in. The packing-plants in the central division of Queensland are at present paying \$4.08 per 100 pounds, dressed weight, delivered, for first ox beef, and \$3.60 for second grade, while those in the Brisbane district are buying on the runs on the basis of \$4.56 per 100 pounds for firsts, \$4.08 for seconds, and \$3.60 for rejects for export, but passed for local consumption.

The buying contract at the Western Australian government's meat-works on the isolated northwest coast of the continent arranges for the initial payment of only \$2.40 per 100 pounds, delivered, for first-quality beef, and \$1.68 for second-quality export cattle. As, however, the plant is operated by the government on a co-operative basis, the agreement provides that, should the works realize a profit from the 1932 season's operations, 90 per cent of it shall be distributed among suppliers of cattle in accordance with accepted supplies.

One of the least satisfactory features of the Australian meat-export trade is the decline in shipments of beef and mutton to continental countries. Italy, which used to take a quite material quantity of beef, has hardly figured in export manifests during the past six months, and there has lately been a considerable falling-off in clearances for Belgium. The latter is due to undercutting by South America in connection with army contracts. Australia was able to obtain a fair share of those in 1931 (85 per cent of 3,500 tons), but it is gathered that the requirements of recent months have been filled by Uruguayan and Brazilian beef at low prices.

It also appears that France has virtually prohibited the importation of beef, and that the Dutch government has adopted a quota system, the imports of beef from Australia between January 16 and April 16 being limited to twenty-seven tons. Argentina, however, in consideration of its larger imports in previous years, was to be allowed to ship 1,368 tons during the quarter.

The partial closing of the European markets to imported meat means that increased supplies will be forced on the British market, and is being used to strengthen the arguments in favor of Britain granting her Dominions adequate preference over foreign sources of supply. It is generally understood that the pros and cons of the case will be discussed at the Imperial Economic Conference which is to be held at Ottawa about three months hence. According to a statement by the Federal Minister for Markets, the Australian delegation intends to concentrate on obtaining tariff concessions for its meat and dairy produce. There had been talk of also pressing for preference in respect to wheat and wool, but the government holds the view that, as there are large surpluses of those commodities which must find markets outside the empire, preferential duties on either would be largely ineffective. The minister further states that, seeing that nearly all wheat-growers produce meat or dairy produce, and that all wool-growers are interested in the meat trade, preference in respect to the meat and dairy industries would be the most comprehensive.

It is, perhaps, hardly necessary to add that these pronouncements are not meeting with universal approval. Wheat and fruit-farmers are demanding that their cases be pressed at the conference, and it is quite possible that the government will give way before the Australian delegation leaves for Ottawa.

# THE BULLETIN BOARD

## TEXAS RANKS HIGH AS EXPORTER

It will surprise many to learn that Texas ranks second among the states in value of exports, being surpassed only by New York. Most people have undoubtedly thought that the great manufacturing centers of the East and Middle West far outclassed predominantly agricultural communities in this respect. Of course, Texas, in addition to her cotton, is our largest producer of petroleum.

In 1931, Texas' exports were valued at \$324,370,164, against \$506,083,298 in 1930. New York headed the list, with \$426,230,960 and \$695,800,402, respectively. These two leaders are followed by California, Pennsylvania, Illinois, New Jersey, and Ohio, in that order. Nevada brings up the rear, with an export trade for the two years of \$146,843 and \$328,211 to her credit. Total exports for the whole of the United States were \$2,377,981,786 in 1931 and \$3,781,172,291 in 1930.

## MEAT THE WHOLE YEAR

In the *New York Evening Post*, J. E. House extols the virtues of an all-year-around diet of plenty of meat:

"Meat—and I speak of it in its various manifestations of fish, flesh and fowl—is at once the most delectable, important, and the most sustaining of foods. No amount of grass, twigs, shelled corn, garden truck, shredded lumber, or fruit juices will compensate the human body for a lack of meat. And I have no belief whatsoever in the theory that one should eat lightly of foods of low nutritive values in summer. Summer, in this latitude, is the most exhausting and debilitating season. It takes more out of the human system than any other. What one needs to withstand its ravages is plenty of warm, well-cooked, nourishing and sustaining food. That is sound reasoning and good sense."

## MEAT FOR ENERGY

"The importance of spinach and vegetables in the family cuisine has been so firmly fixed in the minds of American housewives that it is interesting to find a high scientific authority, the American Chemical Society, declaring

that meat, and lots of it, is necessary for health," writes the *Los Angeles Herald*.

"Exhaustive tests have been made over a two-year period by the society's investigator, Dr. Glen Wakeman, of the University of Colorado, in the cases of seventy persons who lived on vegetables exclusively. All of these had a low basal metabolism. In plain words, that means that their bodies produced less heat and energy than those of meat-eaters. The average was 10 per cent lower. In some cases it was much more.

"While vegetarians assert that their diet gives them, not only health, but 'peace of soul,' Dr. Wakeman thinks the latter condition is usually 'sheer laziness.' As an example, he cites the Hindus of India, who live almost solely on vegetables. It is true that Bernard Shaw, the most noted white vegetarian, cannot be termed lazy, but Mr. Shaw is an exception to all rules. The ordinary man, to succeed in the strenuous business of life, needs plenty of energy, and hence, according to Dr. Wakeman, plenty of meat. He 'cannot live by bread alone,' nor by spinach either."

## PER-CAPITA WHEAT CONSUMPTION

According to a universally recognized authority, France leads the world in consumption of wheat, with a per-capita requirement of 7.5 bushels. Belgium comes second, with 6.7 bushels; Italy third, with 6.6; New Zealand fourth, with 6.4; Great Britain fifth, with 5.7; followed by Spain, with 5.5; Chile, 5.5; Bulgaria, 5.3; Greece, 5; Australia, 5; United States, 4.8; Denmark, 4.8; Canada, 4.5; Switzerland, 4.5; Morocco, 4.3; Rumania, 4.2; Uruguay, 4.2; Yugoslavia, 4; Holland, 4; Czechoslovakia, 3.4; Egypt, 3.2; Austria, 3.2; Sweden, 3.1; Tunis, 2.8; Germany, 2.5; Norway, 2.3; Portugal, 2.1; Finland, 2; Union of South Africa, 1.7; Poland, 1.3; India, 1; Japan, 0.9; and Mexico, 0.8.

## EVOLUTION OF BUTTER

Swift & Company's 1932 "Year Book" contains an interesting account of the history of butter-making, from the earliest times to the present day. We quote the following paragraphs:

"The ruler of the Aryans, who inhabited the plains of central Asia many centuries before the Christian era, was known

as 'Lord of the Cows.' Ancient Sanskrit writings explain that the 'Lord of the Cows' was the ruler of the people by virtue of his wealth and power.

"The Aryans, from whom the white races of the world are descended, were probably the first people to domesticate wild cattle. They regarded the cow as sacred property. Anyone who violated the law of the land by taking the life of a cow was compelled to sleep with the cattle, to follow the herd all day, and to purify himself by obtaining another cow to replace the one slain.

"The early records contain many references to butter, but practically nothing as to its origin. We are told in Genesis that when Abraham was visited by the angels, who appeared in the form of men, '... he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them.' In Judges it is stated that '... she brought forth butter in a lordly dish;' and in Proverbs: 'Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter.'

"One can easily imagine that in the days when man was nomadic, roaming from place to place with his domesticated animals, he occasionally took along



## A Little Jumping Goat Gave Its Name to TAXICAB

*Taxicab* is an abbreviation of *taximeter-cabriolet*—a vehicle carrying an instrument for automatically registering the fare. The name *cabriolet* is the diminutive of the French *cabriole*, meaning "a leap" like that of a goat, and was applied to this type of carriage because of its light, bounding motion. *Cabriolet* came from the Italian *capriola* meaning "a somersault," from Latin *capra* "a he-goat," *capra* "a she-goat." There are thousands of such stories about the origins of English words in

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food in the form of milk. We know that on a warm day the motion occasioned by travel would churn some of the milk into butter. It is not improbable that butter was first discovered in this accidental way.

"The ancients did not value butter entirely for its food qualities. We are told that the young ladies of Rome, and the young men as well, used it as a cosmetic and as an ointment for the hair. Butter was considered very healing to the skin. Wealthy Macedonians went so far as to indulge in butter baths. The Greeks as far back as 450 B. C. regarded the soot of burned butter as a cure for sore eyes.

"In early Spain, butter was kept in the medicine shops and sold for external application only; in India it was applied to the wounds of royal elephants; while in Scotland it was used for lamp oil and for smearing sheep.

"The dairy cattle of ancient times were more like wild animals, giving only a limited quantity of milk beyond that needed by their calves. They were quite unlike the modern dairy cow which, through scientific breeding and feeding, has been made into a highly efficient milk-producer.

"The early methods of converting milk into butter were also vastly different from those of today. The Arabs churned their milk by placing it in leather bags, which were tied to the saddle of a horse and dragged over the ground. Others placed milk in leather sacks suspended from the limb of a tree. These were swung to and fro until the milk and butterfat separated. Another early method was to pour the milk into earthen vessels, where it was beaten with the hands or agitated with sticks."

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# ROUND THE RANGE

## RANGE AND LIVE-STOCK CONDITIONS

Below is a summary of the report on range and live-stock conditions in seventeen western states at the beginning of May, issued from the Denver office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics:

**Arizona.**—Growth of feed retarded by cool weather; cattle doing well, with prospect of good calf crop; sheep doing well, except in northeast.

**California.**—Natural feed fairly good, though short in some localities; excellent in mountains; grass-fat beef late, and volume light; low wool prices limiting sales.

**Colorado.**—Grass short; light carry-over of hay; cattle in fair flesh, with heavy loss of early calves; sheep thin, with considerable loss of ewes in April; lamb crop light.

**Idaho.**—Ranges improved by rains; cattle and ewes thin, with rather heavy losses; hay stocks lowest in years.

**Kansas (western).**—Soil moisture deficient; cattle below normal in condition.

**Montana.**—Moisture conditions ample for present needs; range feed late; cattle in fair flesh; calf crop short; lamb prospects good.

**Nebraska (western).**—Ranges improved by rains; feed prospects good; cattle thin, and calf crop somewhat short.

**Nevada.**—Good supply of moisture; range feed slow in starting; cattle thin, and losses heavier than usual; calf crop below normal; sheep in poor condition.

**New Mexico.**—Grass held back by cool and windy weather; needed moisture supplied late in April; cattle in fair flesh; sheep gaining.

**North Dakota.**—Ranges and pastures improved, but feed late; cattle and breeding ewes thin.

**Oklahoma.**—Drought broken by April rains; cattle improving; calf crop about average.

**Oregon.**—Good supply of moisture, but feed delayed; cattle gaining; calf crop light; ewes thin, and lamb crop below normal.

**South Dakota (western).**—Live stock in fair condition; cows thin, and early calf losses heavy; feed late.

**Texas.**—Late April rains supplied needed moisture over most of state; feed prospects generally good; cattle doing well; movement to Kansas and Oklahoma pastures fairly heavy; sheep marketings light.

**Utah.**—Spring ranges late, but improving; cattle in poor condition; calf crop light; sheep thin, and losses heavy.

**Washington.**—Lower ranges good, higher ranges late; live stock picking up; calf and lamb crops below last year.

**Wyoming.**—April storms hard on stock; cattle and sheep in only fair condition; considerable loss of early calves; lamb crop light; grass slow in starting; little wool sold.

## CONDITIONS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

We have had a severe winter. Snow fell early and plentifully. In the northern part of the state, especially, snow was too deep for successful grazing. It remained that way until late in March, causing considerable excess feeding. Both cattle and sheep, however, have come through the winter in good shape. During the past twenty days, we have had more than four and a half inches of rain, which, together with the warm weather, has advanced grass very rapidly, making us look forward to a good crop year.—E. P. HUME, Hot Springs.

## MAGPIES PECK OUT EYES OF SHEEP

In the Wyoming Wool Grower a recent case is reported from Smithfork, near Cokeville in that state, of magpies pecking an eye from each of a band of more than one hundred lambs. The birds have also been known to attack cattle that had become bogged in mud-holes, waiting until the animals were helpless, when they would alight on their heads and peck out their eyes. They often do much damage to cattle by digging holes in their bodies with their sharp beaks.

A vigorous campaign is being carried on in the Smithfork district to rid it of the marauders.

**The Vicar's Call.**—An old lady in 'Amstead 'Eath was taken with pains on the appendicitis side. The new district medico was called in, made examinations, quieted her fears, and went his way. That evening the old lady remarked to her daughter:

"It was nice of the new vicar to call."

"But, mumsie, that wasn't the vicar—that was the doctor."

"Oh!" said the old lady, musing. "I thought he was a little familiar for a vicar."—Exchange.

**Had a Charge Account.**—When Billy came home from Sunday school his mother greeted him apologetically: "Oh, Billy, I'm sorry I forgot to give you your collection money. What did you do?"

Billy was quite nonchalant. "Oh, I just told them to charge it," was his reply.—Indianapolis News.



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